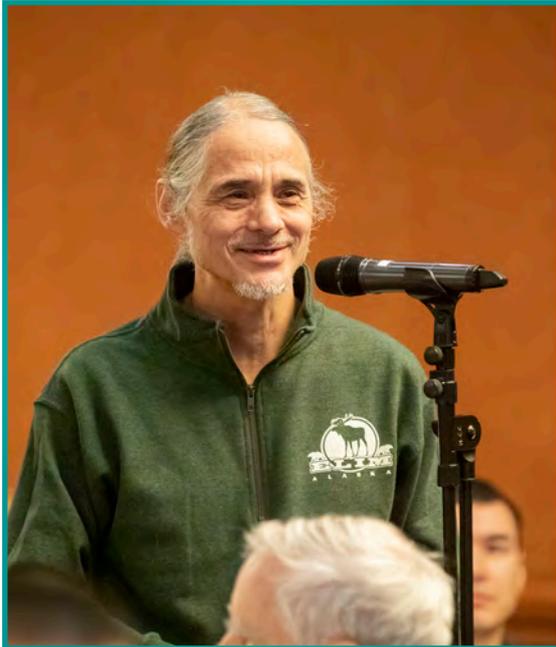


# the Council

Vol. 45, No. 1

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

January 2020



## 4th Annual Tribal Unity Gathering

The 4th Annual Alaska Tribal Unity (ATU) was held on December 2, 2019 that was attended by 150 tribal leaders and representatives from 45 tribes and 12 organizations.

The gathering heard remarks from the congressional delegation and Governor Dunleavy. Senator Sullivan and Congressman Young provided updates on advocating for IHS advanced appropriations, upholding ICWA, improving public

safety, cleaning the ocean to protect subsistence, fixing the 477 MOA that fails tribes and the law, and the importance of the Census. Governor Dunleavy commented on making Alaska's future better for all Alaskans, including the PCE in his 2021 budget, plans for improving education, placing more troopers in rural, and forming partnership with tribal governments.

The Alaska Tribal Administrator

Association shared their services for tribal administrators statewide as a healthy tribal administrator means a healthy tribe and a healthy community.

The legislative VPSO work group held a hearing, sharing their primary findings. They are aware of the conflict of statutory duties between the State Troopers and VPSOs and they plan to address the statutes to expand the VPSO

### RESOLUTION DEADLINE

TCC's Annual Convention resolution process has been improved to provide for more tribal notice and dialogue.

**Resolutions will be due on February 7th, 2020.**

Please submit resolutions to Keith Rueben, [keith.rueben@tananachiefs.org](mailto:keith.rueben@tananachiefs.org).

If you'd like assistance in writing resolutions please contact the relevant department:

**Health:** [terri.cadzow@tananachiefs.org](mailto:terri.cadzow@tananachiefs.org), ext 3141

**Tribal Client Services:** [amber.vaska@tananachiefs.org](mailto:amber.vaska@tananachiefs.org), ext 3110

**Administration/Other:** [joyce.roberts@tananachiefs.org](mailto:joyce.roberts@tananachiefs.org), ext 3178



**In This Issue:**

**Year in Review**  
Pages 6-7

**Violence Against Women Act Update**  
Page 9

**Birch Creek Culture Camp Recap**  
Pages 10-11

**Election Criteria**  
Pages 14-15

## 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*

Charlene Stern/Arctic Village  
*Vice President*

Jerry Isaac/Tanacross  
*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*

Jolie Murray/Beaver  
*Youth Advisor*

## CHIEF'S REPORT

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe holiday season. Now that the New Year has begun, TCC staff is busy preparing for our 2020 Annual Convention in March. The theme for this year's convention is "Breaking Trails into the Future; with the spirit of Ch'eghwtsen'." This year is exciting because there will be elections for three seats on our Executive Board of Directors: the Upper Tanana Representative, the Yukon Koyukuk Representative, and the TCC Chief/Chairman position. For more information on TCC's election process, see pages 14-15.

In November, I attended a series of meetings with tribal leaders from across the nation visiting key Senate offices to discuss how the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) is currently being successfully implemented. The meetings were scheduled by the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, and were important because we knew that Senator Joni Ernst (Iowa) would be introducing a bill that included language that was very problematic for tribes. Although the bill included expanded jurisdiction over covered crimes, it also strips tribal court authority. We want to make it clear to lawmakers that safety for Native women is not a partisan issue and nothing can serve as a bargaining chip for the safety of Native women and the restoration of tribal sovereignty. We will continue to keep our tribes updated on this important issue. For a full description on the VAWA update, see page 9.

On December 2, the 4th Annual Alaska Tribal Unity Gathering was held in Anchorage, attended by 150 tribal leaders and representatives. Participants heard remarks from Governor Dunleavy, Senator Sullivan, Congressman Young, and more, providing state and federal updates. Topic items included advocating for advanced Indian Health Services (IHS) appropriations, upholding Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), improving public safety, education, and protecting subsistence. A full summary from this meeting can be found on page 1 and a full list of resolutions that were passed can be found on page 3.

As you know, I will be completing my final term as your Chief/Chairman in March and it is important that TCC's transition into new leadership runs as smoothly as possible. During the December 11th-12th Executive Board meeting, I presented my goals to assist our new Chief/Chairman to ensure a smooth transition.

On December 12, TCC and Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) joined together in a joint meeting where board members and staff discussed ways to strengthen both organizations and to maximize the services offered. Elder Advisor, Dr. Rev. Anna Frank said, "My advice is to put your grants behind you, we are all working for the same people," and I couldn't agree more.

As always, all of us here at TCC continue to work towards our vision of Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes.

Ana Bassee,  
Victor Joseph  
Chief/Chairman

## THE 2020 CALENDAR IS HERE!

If you would like a 2020 Calendar mailed to you, contact our Communications Division at [communications\\_dept@tananachiefs.org](mailto:communications_dept@tananachiefs.org)



# 4th Annual Tribal Unity *Continued*

By Amber Vaska  
TCS Executive Assistant, TCC

roles to recognize them as the first responders. They are juggling moving the VPSO program from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Commerce. Tribal leaders expressed the lack of public safety, highlighting justice delayed is justice denied, improvements to empower VPSOs to be an equivalent to Troopers, and emphasizing the state's responsibility of public safety in rural Alaska.

Senate President Cathy Giessel and House Speaker Bryce Edgmon spoke about the upcoming legislative session. Senator Giessel anticipates more cuts, but will work to restore some programs, such as the VPSO and Marine Highway. She supports Begich's bill on improving children's reading skills. Edgmon remarked



the Governor promised to work with the legislature on behavioral health. The finance committee will put forward a balance budget with 1.5% increase for departments and a \$200 million surplus for PFDs. To have \$1200 dividends, the question becomes, do residents want a check at the moment or services the whole year for the whole community?

Alex Cleghorn updated the gathering on services the Alaska Native Justice Center provides, including advocacy for survivors of domestic assault, restorative justice, and lawyer representation to tribes' child in need of aid cases.

ATU's legal partners presented on a federal issues, including:

- Alaska Tribal Public Safety Empowerment Act

- Sturgeon Fix
- Advance Appropriations
- VAWA update
- Tribal Amicus brief
- Victims of Crime funding opportunity

During the Transportation panel, Matt Jaffe of Sonosky gave an update on the negotiated rule making, the federal budget and the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019.

The regions caucused to select executive council members, agreed to modify Will Mayo's title to Executive Director, and passed 11 resolutions that direct ATU's advocacy efforts. The rules were suspended during resolutions to direct ATU to send a letter affirming Alaska's public safety emergency and urging the formation of a task force with tribes, the State, congressional delegation and DOJ to jointly address the issue.

## Resolutions passed during the Tribal Unity Meeting

- 2019-01** AMEND THE 477 INTERDEPARTMENTAL MOA TO LANGUAGE THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE 477 LAW AS AMENDED
- 2019-02** SUPPORT S. 2302, THE "AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2019" (ATIA), ITS TRIBAL TITLE (TITLE IV), AND INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING TO THE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC TRANSIT, AND HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAMS IMPORTANT TO TRIBAL NATIONS
- 2019-03** THANKING ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM BARR FOR ADDRESSING PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS IN RURAL ALASKA
- 2019-04** SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR TRIBAL PARTICIPATION AND ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALASKA NATIVE VIETNAM ERA VETERANS ALLOTMENTS PROGRAM
- 2019-05** URGE CONGRESS TO PROMPTLY ENACT "THE ALASKA PUBLIC SAFETY EMPOWERMENT ACT"
- 2019-06** INCREASED SUPPORT AND PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO CONTRACTED VPSO PROGRAMS TO ENSURE TIMELY AND ADEQUATE PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES TO ALASKAN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES
- 2019-07** URGING FULL FUNDING FOR THE ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM
- 2019-08** OPPOSE S. 440 IN THE 116TH CONGRESS TO PROTECT TRIBAL SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY
- 2019-09** DEFEND REGULATORY PROTECTIONS FOR SUBSISTENCE FISHING IN ALL WATERS WITHIN ALASKA CONSERVATION SYSTEM UNITS
- 2019-10** SUPPORT FOR ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
- 2019-11** SUPPORT FOR VAWA REAUTHORIZATION

# Wellness & Prevention Q & A

## How can you tell if someone is using meth?

### Behavioral Signs

- Being very alert or physically active
- Reduced appetite and weight loss
- Outbursts or mood swings
- Paranoia or hallucinations
- High blood pressure
- Elevated body temperature and heart rate
- Shortness of breath
- Grinding of teeth

### Visible Signs

- Picking at skin or hair
- Loss of appetite and weight loss
- Dilated pupils
- Rapid eye movement
- Odd sleeping patterns that can include periods of being awake for days or even weeks
- Twitching, facial tics, jerky movements, exaggerated mannerisms
- Talking constantly
- Outbursts or mood swings
- Paranoia or hallucinations

### The Crash

- Another sign someone is using crystal meth is the crash phase. During this period, the person's body just can't continue dealing with the drugs, and it usually ends up in long periods of sleep. A crash can last anywhere from one to three days, and it can be an outward sign of meth use that's apparent to people around the user.

Source: <https://www.therecoveryvillage.com/meth-addiction/faq/know-someone-crystal-meth/#gref>

## BENEDICT & ELIZA JONES, KOYUKUK

Benedict was born August 3, 1933 in a fish camp 10 miles downriver from Koyukuk. His traditional name, K'ughtoydenoo'oo', which translates to "gather the people together on the river," was given to him by his great grandfather Louis Pilot.

Benedict Jones Sr. was raised traditionally by his parents, putting in hard work and living off of the land. He recalls working at spring camp with his parents. There, they made a cache that was lifted eight feet off the ground, constructed a tent for shelter, and made a raft. Benedict remembers one spring, his dad noted the six feet of snow on the ground and said, "There's going to be a flood." His father's prediction was right. Once the ice went out and the flooding had stopped, Benedict and his family paddled back to Koyukuk.

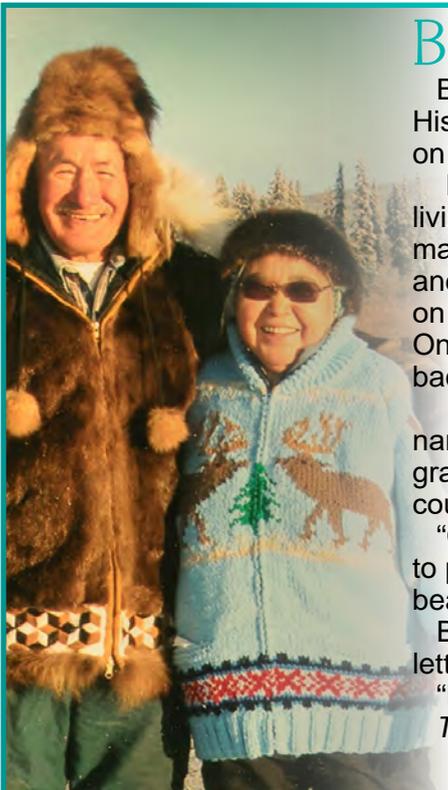
Eliza Peter Jones was born in the old village called Cutoff, which was the original name for Huslia. The village relocated to its current location due to flooding. Eliza's grandmother, Cecelia Happy, gave Eliza her traditional name Neelteloyeeneelno, which could mean "doing different projects at the same time" or "having multiple talents."

"Grandma gave me that name so that it could carry on her story, but also as a way to pass on her talents to me," explains Eliza. "She was a beautiful seamstress, she did beautiful beadwork."

Benedict was working in Fairbanks when Eliza and her friends began writing him letters. "She proposed to me by letter," says Benedict.

"Later Benedict and I got married and moved to Koyukuk," says Eliza.

To hear Benedict & Eliza's full story, visit [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)



TCC's Legacy of our Elders series documents the lives and stories of Athabascan elders throughout the TCC region. Their interviews are compiled into volumes that include a DVD movie as well as an accompanying book. The books and DVDs highlight the elders and the stories that they want to share. These videos are available on our website at [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org)

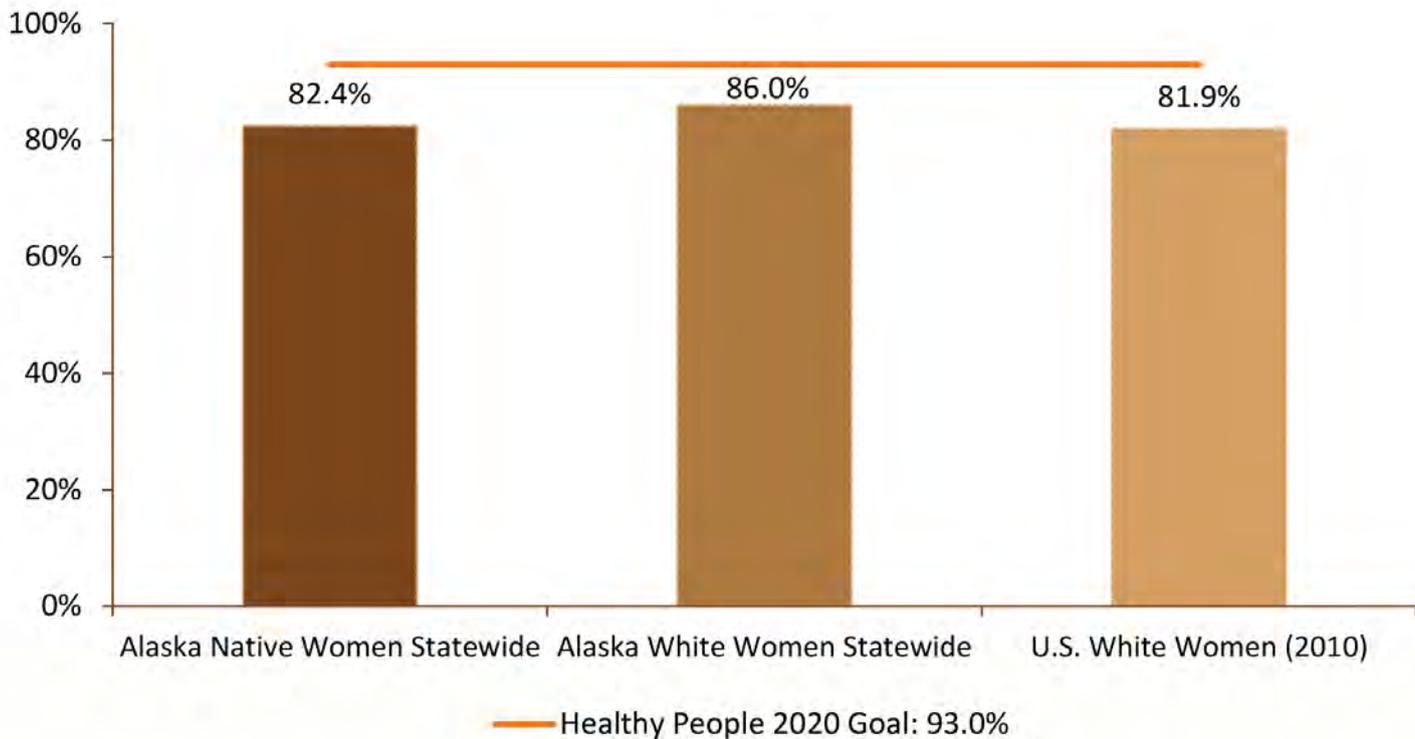
Funding for Legacy Project made possible by TCC & The National Park Service.

January is National

# CERVICAL CANCER

Month

January is dedicated to shedding light on Cervical Cancer. All of us here at Tanana Chiefs Conference want to provide you with educational materials that could **save your life**. Cervical cancer screening includes females aged 21-65 years of age who reported at least one Pap smear within the last three years. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends screening for cervical cancer in women age 21 to 65 years with a Pap smear every 3 years. Screening can detect early abnormal changes in the tissues of the cervix so that they can be treated **before they become cancerous**.



### Cervical Cancer Screening, Women (21-65), 2006-2014

During 2006-2014, 82.4% of Alaska Native women (21-65 years) reported having had a pap smear in the past 3 years, slightly lower than the percentage of Alaska White women (86%).

Estimated cervical cancer screening rates varied by tribal health region, ranging from 64.6% to 86.9%.

#### Objective:

Increase the proportion of women ages 21-65 years of age who received a Pap test within preceding three years to **93%**

## HOW TO KEEP YOUR CERVIX CANCER-FREE

AGE  
9-12

HPV vaccine:  
Age 9-12

AGE  
21

Get your first Pap test at 21 and get one every 3 years

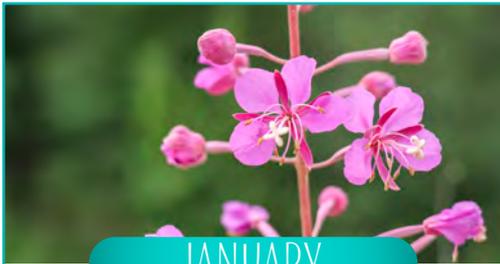
AGE  
26

AGE  
30

AGE  
64

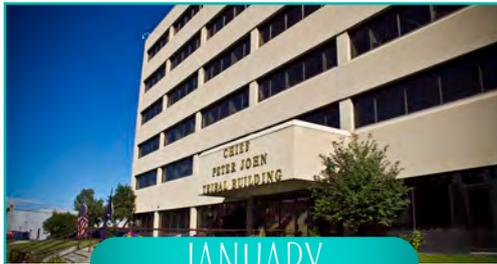
Get a Pap test every 3 years, or simultaneous Pap and HPV test every 5 years

# A YEAR IN REVIEW



## JANUARY

TCC launches Ch'eghwtsen' and our new guiding principle: "Accessible and trusted world-class services provided with unconditional love, compassion, dignity, and respect. "HEAR ME"



## JANUARY

TCC receives an indicative strong investment grade rating of A+ with a stable outlook from Fitch Ratings.



## MARCH

TCC developed a coloring book that translates the names of Alaskan animals into the 10 different languages of our region.



## JUNE

In accordance to Full Board Resolution 2018-23 to provide a Cancer Awareness Support Event to Honor our People Affected by Cancer submitted by Tanana Tribal Council, TCC coordinated the Khotr'elneyn 5K Walk/Run.



## JUNE

Alaska Fish & Game Commissioner, Director of Commerical Fishing, Director of Wildlife Conservation, members of the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, TCC key staff, and Victor Joseph toured eight communities along the Yukon River.



## JUNE

Four new Health Aides completed Level 4 of the Community Health Aide training program. Congratulations Amber Jimmie of Minto, Robert (Dale) Keeling of Manley, Mariah Bifelt of Hughes, and Teisha Wiehl of Beaver!



## AUGUST

TCC's annual Education Summit was held. The theme was "State of Education."



## AUGUST

TCC distributed \$50,000 and \$100,000 awards to members tribes for community projects and services.



## SEPTEMBER

Rasmuson Foundation President/CEO Diane Kaplan, Communications Manager Lisa Demer, and Senior Program Officer Todd Shenk in visited Alatna, Allakaket, and Nulato.



### MARCH

The construction of the new Upper Tanana Health Center, located in Tok, was announced.



### MAY

Alaska State Troopers Colonel Barry Wilson and Lt. Jess Carson met with Tribal leadership from Chalkyitsik, Birch Creek, Beaver, Fort Yukon, and Arctic Village in Fort Yukon



### MAY

A public safety roundtable was hosted by Senator Sullivan with the U.S. Attorney General William Barr. Following that meeting, AG Barr visited Galena and spoke with leadership from Huslia, Galena, Koyukuk, Ruby, Nulato and Kaltag.



### JUNE

The Athena Health Patient Portal launched via desktop, tablet, and mobile devices. Bringing patients greater convenience and more opportunities to stay connected.



### JULY

Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center Laboratory met all criteria for Laboratory Accreditation by COLA, a national healthcare accreditation organization.



### JULY

The Tribal Interior Budget Council visited Rampart and Hughes to discuss their concerns about the Power Cost Equalization, lack of response from law enforcement, and more.



### NOVEMBER

TCC's Education Program will be expanding the "Grow Our Own" Program (TCC GO!) by providing more opportunities for youth to have hands-on experience in the health care field.



### NOVEMBER

TCC completed the next step in the process of completing projects by securing approximately \$130 million in funding through the sale of municipal bonds.



### NOVEMBER

TCC held a two-day Behavioral Health and Hunting Fishing Task Force Summit and Full Board of Director's meeting. Full Board of Directors passed a new TCC policy - "Board of Directors Drug and Alcohol Policy".



# Willow House Opening Soon

By Joyce Sommer  
Patient Medical Hotel Manager

One of the highlights of the Willow House renovations is the development of the palliative care unit designed to provide care and comfort for end of life stays. Also, there is an adjoining unit dedicated for families to stay close to their loved one during this difficult time. The palliative care unit is an entirely new room with hotel grade televisions and phone systems. The room will also have

a kitchenette, comfortable chairs for visitors, and a large handicap bathroom with easy accessibility. On the opposite side of the hall, Willow House will have a laundry/vending machine room and a community gathering area with kitchen accommodations in order to support family gatherings and meal preparations for those staying at the hotel.

Our goal for this unit is to provide

the best care and comfort for our loved ones at the end of life. No other hotel can provide this type of accommodation in Fairbanks. It is CARE that helps soothes a person who is at end of life. The goals are to prevent or relieve suffering as much as possible and to improve QUALITY of life while RESPECTING the loved one and the family.



## Patient Experience Team Employee Spotlight

Meet  
Shawna

Shawna Hytry is the newest member of the Patient Experience Team. She started working at TCC in August, as a Patient Navigator, and helps our patients and families in many ways. Shawna recently implemented patient rounding in the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center lobby areas. Our goal is to connect with patients and families during their experiences and proactively address any concerns or needs before they leave. Shawna started rounding in mid-November and has already connected with 70 patients. The comments have

been very positive!

Shawna is from McGrath and has previous experience working at State of Alaska, State Equipment Fleet. She spent six years working with a great group of people there. Before that, she worked with the United States Postal Service as a Postmaster in Lake Minchumina and Postal Carrier Supervisor for a short while in Fairbanks

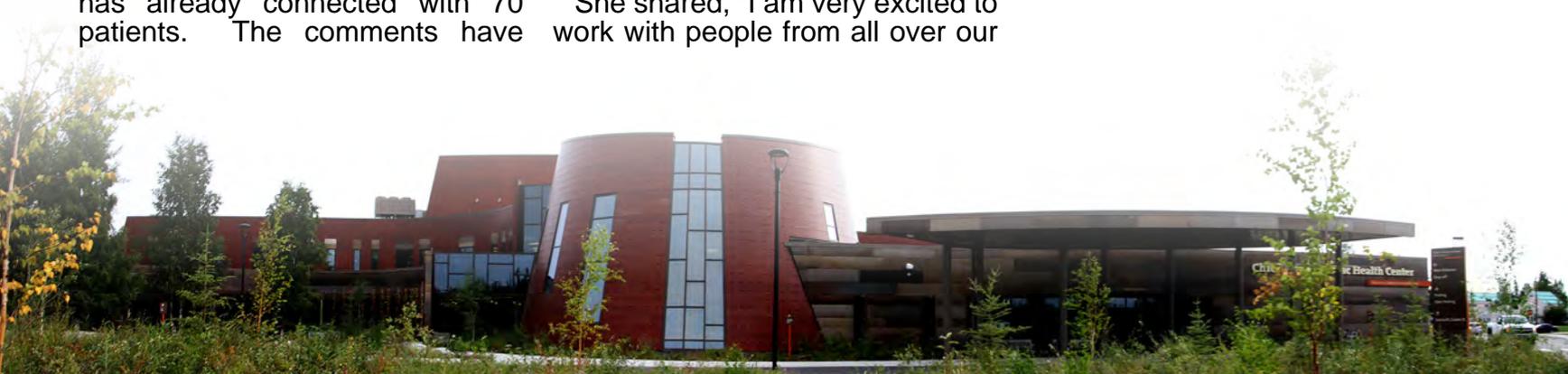
She enjoys gardening, fishing, hunting, hiking, creating art of different mediums, music, rock collecting and spending time with loved ones including her fur baby.

She shared, "I am very excited to work with people from all over our

region and the great people that work at Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. I am learning so much. I've always been interested in the health field. TCC in general has a lot to offer; I wasn't aware of all the opportunities provided until my orientation and shadowing in the first few weeks of working here."

Her advice to everyone is, "Smile! Smiles are free and they almost guaranteed to make somebody, including yourself, feel better-even if only briefly."

We are very grateful to have Shawna on our Team!



# Violence Against Women Act *Update*

By Natasha Singh  
General Counsel, TCC

On April 4, 2019, the House of Representatives passed a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Reauthorization bill—H.R. 1585. H.R. 1585, a bipartisan bill that was developed with guidance from advocates. The bill includes critical resources for tribes to implement the legislation and necessary lifesaving amendments to enhance tribal authority and safety for Native women.

In early November, bipartisan VAWA negotiations in the Senate broke down and it became evident that there would be two competing Senate bills to reauthorize VAWA. On November 13, 2019, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced a companion Senate Bill to H.R. 1585 to reauthorize VAWA. S.2843 mirrors closely the language contained in the bipartisan, advocate supported H.R. 1585 and is inclusive of the important tribal provisions that tribal leaders and advocates have continued to strongly support.

In an effort to provide education on how VAWA is currently being successfully implemented, how the language included H.R. 1585 and S.2843 would fill some of the existing gaps in current law, and introduce key staffers and

Senators to the highly competent individuals who make up the tribal court judiciary, the National Indigenous Women's Resources Center (NIWRC) scheduled a series of Hill visits with targeted Republican Senate offices during the week of November 18th. We knew, from a DRAFT Discussion bill from Senator Ernst's office, she was developing a legislation that is problematic for tribes, and we educated law makers on these issues.

Throughout the week of November 18th, a group of tribal leaders, tribal attorneys, and tribal judges including Chief/Chairman Victor Joseph met with the staff of the following key Republican offices:

- Senator Susan Collins, Maine
- Senator Tom Tillis, North Carolina
- Senator Mike Crapo, Idaho
- Senator McSally, Arizona
- Senator Roger Wicker, Mississippi
- Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mississippi
- Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska
- Senator Cory Gardner, Colorado
- Senator Joni Ernst, Iowa

- Senator Dan Sullivan, Alaska
- Senator Ben Sasse, Nebraska

On November 20th, a few hours after meeting with Senator Ernst's staff, Senator Ernst introduced her bill with as expected, very problematic language related to Tribes. While inclusive of expanded jurisdiction over covered crimes, the bill strips tribal court authority at the same time. In an attempt to garner tribal support, the bill also provides for increased authorization amounts for grants to Tribes and language from several marker bills (Savanna's Act, SURVIVE Act, BADGES Act, Tribal Law and Order Act Reauthorization, and the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act). As the delegation made clear on their hill visits, safety for Native women is not a partisan issue and nothing can serve as a bargaining chip for the safety of Native women and the restoration of tribal sovereignty.

Of the Senate offices we met with, only Senator Sullivan had signed on as Co-Sponsor.\*

*\*Of note, Senator Sullivan agreed to Co-Sponsored Ernst's Bill prior to meeting with our delegation.*

# Global Warming *and* Ice Conditions

By Jason Johnson  
Health & Safety Educator

Normally, during this time of the year, our rivers and lakes would be thick with ice and busy with travelers. But due to unseasonably warm temperatures, many of the waterways have thin ice or no ice at all. Where there is ice, many people report open holes and overflows in those areas. The fact of

the matter is that climate change has made it extremely dangerous to travel. Keep these tips in mind while getting ready:

- **Stay on the path** – Avoid water and drive on the land as much as possible.
- **Communicate** – Talk with other

travelers about trail conditions, open water, and your route.

- **Travel Sober** – Alcohol affects your decision making and harms the way your body protects itself in the cold.



# TJEENJIK PORTAGE

## Culture & Wellness Camp

By Cheyenna Kuplack  
Communications Coordinator, TCC

The Tjeenjik Nihtegwiidii Culture and Wellness Camp took place August 30 - September 3, 2019 outside the village of Birch Creek. Tjeenjik Nihtegwiidii translates to a portage to Beaver River in the Gwich'in dialect.

At the camp, there were 47 participants: 27 youth, 16 adults, and 4 elders.

Cultural activities included storytelling, traditional hunting and fishing, drumming, singing, making fry bread for the community potlatch, and

learning Gwich'in language.

Elder, Paul Williams, Sr. of Beaver says that Culture Camps are "important for us to go back to who we are, who we really are."

Wellness activities included boating safety, and drug and alcohol dangers and prevention. At each camp, the youth each received a survival bag that includes a poncho, heat-reflective blanket, water bottle, mirror, whistle, flashlight, and pocket knife/multi-tool.

Camp Coordinator, Charlotte James

of Birch Creek, says "Culture Camps are important for our youth and it's important that we reach out and kind of gather them and really bring them together in a large setting where people are working together and a lot of adults are getting along working together. Something that kind of like mentors and shows them what it looks like to be in a healthy, small camp community."

For more information or to watch recaps of the 2019 camps, visit our website at [www.tananachiefs.org/culture-and-wellness-camps](http://www.tananachiefs.org/culture-and-wellness-camps)





# Joint TCC and FNA Meeting

On December 12th, Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Fairbanks Native Association came together to host a joint meeting where board members and staff from both organizations met to discuss how to maximize services offered to tribal members and the Fairbanks community.

FNA President Jessica Black and Chief/Chairman Victor Joseph gave a presentation called 'Strengthening Our Organizations', with a goal

*"My advice is to put your grants behind you, we are all working for the same people."*  
Elder Advisor, Dr. Rev. Anna Frank

of establishing coordination and understanding between the two organizations, as many of their services span across the same recipients.

Moving forward, some of the actions items included; looking at burial assistance program, assistance with the management of Birch Hill cemetery, hosting more positive events, culture camps for tribal members in Fairbanks, Get Out the Native Vote assistance and workforce development.

Both Boards committed to communicating often to ensure quality services.



## Community Health Aide Spotlight

### Sheena Tanner - Itinerant Health Aide

By Nancy Tarnai

Although Sheena Tanner resides in Missouri, she is very much rooted in Alaska. As an itinerant health aide for Tanana Chiefs Conference, Tanner works in any of the 42 villages in the TCC region where she is needed but often works in Circle.

Tanner grew up in Arctic Village and left to be with her husband Michael in military service. When they moved home to Arctic Village six years ago, the community hadn't had a health aide for a decade, so Tanner thought it would be a good way to help support her family and took the training.

It soon became much more than a job. "It grew into a love of helping people and feeling fulfilled," Tanner said.

Now the family lives in Missouri to be near Michael's relatives. Tanner doesn't mind because she comes

home to Alaska to work often. The greatest challenge is to learn quickly who in the community where she is working can help in a time of need.

The variety of her work is a blessing to Tanner. "I'm interested in different cultures and traditional practices of Alaska Natives," she said. "I like being exposed to that and I get to meet amazing people."

In the future, Tanner might consider working toward becoming a nurse or physician's assistant but for now, she is taking things one day at a time. She enjoys reading, playing video games with her children and cooking.

Tanner said she frequently advises young Alaskans to consider a health aide career, telling them it will get their

foot in the door to a medical career.

Angela Lucien, TCC physician assistant and Tanner's supervisor, said, "When I think of a warm, compassionate, professional and astute health care provider, I think of Sheena. She is a pleasure for all to work with, and often brightens the room she is in with her positive attitude and enjoyable personality."

"Sheena tackles challenges in the workplace with a can-do attitude, always making sure to do her best with great attention to detail. Sheena is the type of provider who will do anything she can to help lighten the load of her patients, community and coworkers. We are beyond blessed to have her serving our rural patients as a health aide in CHAP."



# 2019 EFF PROGRAM

BLM Alaska Fire Service

## Required Medical Exams

2019 was the first year that the Department of the Interior (DOI) required a complete baseline firefighter medical exam for federal arduous duty emergency wildland firefighters (EFF) in Alaska. This has been a requirement for all Emergency Firefighters/Administratively Determined (EFF/AD) full-time federal wildland firefighters in the Lower 48 and federal non-EFF firefighters in Alaska for several years.

## The results of the 2019 Alaska EFF baseline medical exams are as follows:

- 460 EFF medical exams were requested.
- 436 individual EFF responders attended medical exams.
- 325 individual EFF responders were medically qualified.
- 112 of those 325 individuals were granted waivers.
- 111 individuals did not qualify.

## 2020 Medical Self Certification\*

All EFF Responders medically qualified to participate in the Work Capacity Test (WCT or pack test) and fight fire in 2019 (including those who became qualified after completing a medical waiver process) must complete an on-line self-certification process and be medically cleared for arduous duty prior to participating in the WCT in 2020.

If you would like to complete the self-certification process, you must do the following:

- Make sure the AFS EFF Office has a correct and current email address on file. **ALL EFF RESPONDERS MUST HAVE A VALID EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THIS PROCESS.** The EFF Office has attempted to contact all 2019 qualified EFF responders in order to verify email addresses. If you did not receive a call, please call us ASAP at 1-833-532-8810 Option 4.



- Check your email often for instructions from Comprehensive Health Services (CHS).
- Follow the CHS emailed instructions for setting up an Examinee Access System (EAS) account.
  - Request a Wildland Firefighter (WLFF) self-certification through the EAS prior to, but within 45 days of the scheduled WCT.
  - Log in to EAS and check the results. You will be notified via email when your results are available in EAS. If qualified, save/print your qualification certificate. Present the WCT administrators with your qualification certificate when you go to the WCT event.
- If unqualified, follow the instructions provided by CHS, contact the DOI Medical Standards Program customer service at 1-888-286-2521, or contact the AFS EFF Office.

*Results of the self-certification process are NOT immediate. You must get this done well before the day of the WCT but, no sooner than 45 days prior to the WCT.*

## 2020 Baseline Medical Exams\*

If you did not request and/or complete an arduous duty baseline medical exam (for firefighters) in 2019 and you want to do so for 2020 you need to contact the AFS EFF Office at 1-833-532-8810 Option 4. Baseline medical exams are completed at one of the hub clinic locations shown in the list below. If you call to request a baseline medical exam, you need tell us which hub clinic location you wish to take the exam the exam at:

– Anchorage – Fairbanks – Bethel – Galena – Soldotna – Wasilla – Kenai –

**REMEMBER, You must complete the exam process and be medically cleared to take the WCT. It can take 10 to 15 days after the exam for an**

*individual to be cleared.*

Fort Wainwright Security Screening

If you are an EFF responder who may have a criminal background (felony or misdemeanor) and/or think that your criminal background will prevent you from being allowed access onto Fort Wainwright Post, you will need to apply for a waiver. To do so you must obtain and complete the Access Control Denial Waiver Application. The application will need to be filled out completely and court documents attached as necessary. The completed denial waiver application package needs to be sent to the TCC EFF Program Coordinator at:

**FAX: 907-459-3852**

**MAIL: Tanana Chiefs Conference  
ATTN: TCC Forestry Program  
122 1st Ave Suite 600  
Fairbanks, AK 99701**

TCC will forward completed waiver application packets to Fort Wainwright Security. Because the Army takes up to 30 days to process waiver applications, they must be completed and submitted as soon as possible. Once Fort Wainwright Security makes a determination, you will be notified by telephone. You may also pick up your determination packet at the Fort Wainwright Visitor's Center. You can contact the Visitor's Center at 907-361-6144.

## Real ID Requirement

Starting Oct. 1, 2020, All federal and state EFF will need to present a REAL ID compliant license/ID, or another acceptable form of identification, for accessing federal facilities and boarding commercial aircraft. EFF will not be hired after Oct. 1, 2020 if they do not have a REAL ID compliant form of identification.

# Election Criteria: 2020 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting

## SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

### TCC Executive Board of Directors

#### Subregional Positions:

- Upper Tanana Subregion ..... 3 Year Term 2020-2023  
Currently Chaaiy Albert, Northway
- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion ..... 3 Year Term 2020-2023  
Currently Norman "Carl" Burgett, Huslia

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a current village director, as authorized by tribal/village resolution. (Article 7, Section 4)
- Must be residents of the State of Alaska and Alaska Native Members of member villages of the corporation. (Article 4, Section 1)
- Full Time employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as Directors or officers of the corporation with exception of the President. E-Board Members may serve as temporary or seasonal TCC employees. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must successfully pass an ICPA and Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check. (See also Executive Board Policy 50-5003).
- Compliance with the TCC Board of Directors' Drug and Alcohol Free Policy #50-5001 applies to all TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chair of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. To be eligible as a candidate, individuals must pass the background check the week before their election

### TCC Advisory Boards

The three TCC Advisory Boards make recommendations to the TCC Executive Board and President. The Regional Health board is selected by each respective subregion. (Article 7, Section 2). The President has the authority to appoint all individuals to the other advisory boards, (Article 7, Section 3), but the most recent process has been for the subregions to democratically select representatives to each advisory board. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

#### TCC Regional Health Board

- Yukon Flats Subregion.....3 year term (2020-2023)  
Currently Patricia Salmon, Chalkyitsik
- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion .....3 year term (2020-2023)  
Currently VACANT

#### TCC Education Council

- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.....3 year term (2020-2023)  
Currently VACANT
- Upper Tanana Subregion.....3 year term (2020-2023)  
Currently Phyllis Erhart, Tanana

#### Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion.....3 year term (2020-2023)  
Currently VACANT
- Upper Tanana Subregion.....3 year term 2020-2023)  
Currently Gerald Albert, Northway

## FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

### AFN Village Representative

- 1 Seat .....One year term (2019-2020)  
Currently Julie Roberts-Hyslop, Tanana

\* The AFN Village Representative must comply with AFN bylaws which allows for AFN member villages to vote. Historically, TCC members have elected this seat at the TCC annual convention. In 2020, the AFN village representative will be selected at the Interior Caucus of the AFN Annual meeting in Anchorage which will allow the ANCSA villages to vote as required by the AFN bylaws. Julie Roberts term will extend until the 2020 election.

### IRHA Board of Commissioners

- Seat E.....Three year term (2020-2023)  
Currently Marvin Deacon, Grayling

\* Must be eligible to serve on TCC Board of Directors  
- Employees of TCC or IRHA are not eligible to serve as IRHA Commissioners (Article 7, Section 7)

\* The election of the IRHA seat is not affected by the TCC Bylaws pertaining to the declaration of candidacy requirements; however, we notify villages of IRHA candidates who declare their written intent as a candidate for informational purposes.

## FULL BOARD OF DIRECTIONS ELECTIONS

### Officer Positions

- TCC Chief/Chairman .....3 year term (2020-2023)  
Currently Victor Joseph, North Pole/Tanana

#### Eligibility Criteria:

Officers must be Alaska Native members of a member village of the corporation and eligible to be selected as a Director of a member village. (Article 5, Section 1) All employees including the President must pass Personnel Policy 10-107, "Applicant and Employee Background and Character Investigations." Per Executive Board Policy 50-5003, Executive and Health Board candidates must also pass background checks. Presidential, Executive and Health board candidates must turn in a completed and correct background check application to Heather Rogers in Human Resources by February 14th to guarantee background checks will be completed by March 6th. Individuals contemplating running for a board position should turn in a background check application immediately to ensure the ability to make corrections to mistakes in the lengthy application. All background check applications will be confidential and only Human Resources will have access to the application and the names of individuals. Those individuals that do not submit complete paperwork or fail to pass a background check will not be eligible candidates for the TCC President, Executive Board or Health Board positions.

## DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY

Individuals who want to declare themselves a candidate for any of the above seats must submit a written, signed and dated letter of intent between 8:00 AM-Feb 6, 2020 and 5:00 PM-March 6, 2020. We recommend that you confirm receipt of your letter of intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to March 6th. Candidates often wait until the last hour to submit which has caused miscommunication in the past leading to ineligible candidates

Letter of intent (see example on next page) must be received by fax, mail or delivered in person no later than 5:00 PM on March 6, 2020 to:

Tanana Chiefs Conference  
ATTN: Norma Dahl, Executive Secretary  
122 First Avenue, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
1-800-478-6822 ext.3118 FAX # (907) 459-3884

2020 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; the elections rules are posted on the TCC website at [www.tananachiefs.org](http://www.tananachiefs.org) under the 2020 TCC Annual Convention information and is also enclosed with the First and Official Call to Convention mailed to TCC member tribes. A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Natasha Singh, General Counsel.

### Important Dates for the 2020 TCC Elections

**Submit between now and February 14th:**  
The last day TCC is able to guarantee a background check will be completed in time for the required 10 day announcement of candidates before the meeting.

**February 6th at 8:00am**  
The open period in which a candidate may declare written candidacy begins. Please confirm receipt of your letter of intent.

**March 6th at 5:00pm:**  
The open period in which a candidate may declare candidacy ends. Candidates must declare their candidacy in writing. TCC must provide a list of eligible candidates to member tribes.

**March 19th:**  
TCC elections held at the TCC Full Board of Directors Annual Meeting at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks.

# Background Checks and TCC's Full Board of Directors Election

## ICPA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION:

The Indian Child Protection Act (ICPA), requires TCC Executive and Health Board of Directors to pass a federal ICPA background check, and the Alaska Barrier Crimes Act background check.

The TCC Executive Board has made the commitment to both comply with current laws, Board policies and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC Executive Board and Health Board candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints by February 14th submitted to Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director. This allows enough time for the check to be complete. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be eligible to continue as official candidates for the respective elections. This process was mandated in the 2014 Presidential Election as well.

## 2020 TCC ELECTIONS: ELECTION RULES RULE 10. MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED

To be elected to a position, nominees are required to receive a majority vote from the votes cast by the TCC Board of Delegates. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot provided by these Election Rules until a nominee receives a majority vote.

## RULE 11. FAILURE TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY

1. In the event of a tie occurring for a Subregional seat after the third ballot, a coin toss will occur to determine the outcome of the election.
2. Ballots where there are four (4) nominees or more. If no nominee receives a majority vote on the first ballot the following rules will apply with the intent to eliminate candidates to achieve a majority:

The Election Committee will eliminate all nominees except for the three (3) nominees receiving the highest number of votes and conduct a subsequent ballot.

If there are three (3) or more candidates that receive the second highest number of votes, all those with the second highest number of votes will

proceed to the next ballot including the candidate with the most votes. The remaining candidates will be eliminated.

If there is a tie for candidates with the third highest vote and there are two (2) or more candidates that receive the first and/or second highest number of votes, only the two (2) or more candidates that receive the highest number of votes will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

If there are more than three (3) candidates tied for first highest vote, all of those receiving the first highest will proceed to the next ballot. The rest will be eliminated.

If all but one candidate ties for second, the Election Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the nominees who tied for second. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

3. Ballots where there are three (3) nominees. If no nominee receives a majority vote on a ballot having three (3) nominees, the Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes, and conduct a subsequent ballot. If all three (3) nominees tie for the votes cast, the Election Committee shall conduct a subsequent ballot including all nominees. If two nominees tie for the fewest votes cast, the Committee will distribute an "elimination ballot" that includes only the two nominees who tied for the fewest votes cast on the prior ballot. The Election Committee will eliminate the one nominee receiving the lowest number of votes on the "elimination ballot" and resume the balloting between all remaining nominees.

4. Ballots with two (2) nominees. The nominee receiving a majority vote shall be elected. If neither nominee receives a majority vote, the Election Committee will prepare another ballot without elimination of the nominee receiving the fewer votes. This Election Committee will repeat this process as necessary until one nominee receives a majority vote.

\*\* Majority is based on the number of Directors present for the 2020 Full Board of Director's roll call.

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE (Must be between 8 a.m. February 6, 2020 and 5 p.m. March 6, 2020).

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ declare my intent to run for the Tanana Chiefs Conference

(Name) (Village/Enrolled to)

position of \_\_\_\_\_

(Insert seat you intend to run as a candidate for. Example: Chief/Chairman, Subregional Executive Board, TCC Health Board, TCC Education Council or /ATC)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Phone Number

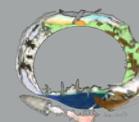
Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, 25 USC sec. 3207 provides that each tribal organization that receives funds under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act shall not employ individuals that have committed certain crimes when the position involves regular or foreseeable contact with Indian children. The TCC Executive Board has reviewed and passed procedures to implement the ICPA background checks and the Board requires all Executive Board of Directors, Health Board of Directors and TCC employees to pass ICPA background checks and the Alaska Barrier Crime Act, when applicable.

Nominees must fill-out a background check application. The background check application can be obtained from Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director at ext. 3095, and is due by February 14th, 2020 to allow for processing before the election. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be official candidates for the 2012 Full Board of Directors' elections.

TCC recommends that you confirm the receipt of your Letter of Intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to 5:00 P.M. March 6, 2020.

## LETTER OF INTENT

Tanana Chiefs Conference  
ATTN: Norma Dahl, Executive Secretary  
122 First Ave, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, AK 99701 | Fax (907) 459-3884



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Confere



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

## THE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

122 First Avenue, Suite 600  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Phone: (907) 452-8251 ext. 3424  
Fax: (907) 459-3884  
communications\_dept@tananachiefs.org

[www.tananachiefs.org](http://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.

Follow us:     

## JOIN THE TCC FAMILY

[WWW.TANANACHIEFS.ORG](http://WWW.TANANACHIEFS.ORG)

### Village Vacancies

- Behavioral Health Aide (Anaktuvuk Pass, Chalkyitsik, Dot Lake, Northway, Nulato, Rampart, Ruby)
- Community Health Aide (Koyukuk)
- Community Health Aide/Practitioner (Alatna, Allakaket, Chalkyitsik, Circle, Dot Lake, Healy Lake, Hughes, Kaltag, Ruby, Stevens Village)
- Edger Nollner Health Center Director (Galena)
- Elder Nutrition Cook (Allakaket, Chalkyitsik, Hughes, Nikolai)
- Home Care Provider (Allakaket, Birch Creek, Galena, Koyukuk, Northway, Nulato)
- Physician – Primary Care (Tok)
- Primary Counselor (Old Minto)
- Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook (Allakaket, Anvik, Arctic Village, Chalkyitsik, Huslia, Venetie)
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist (Alatna, Nenana)
- Village Public Safety Officer (Circle, Eagle, Huslia, McGrath, Nulato, Ruby, Tanana, Venetie)

### Fairbanks Vacancies

- Academic Advisor
- Addictions Behavioral Health Clinician
- ASAP OJT Barista
- Behavioral Health Assessment Clinician
- Behavioral Health Clinical Associate-Fairbanks
- Behavioral Health Office Manager
- Biomedical Equipment Technician I
- Brownfield Technician
- Certified Medical Assistant
- Certified Nurse Midwife
- Coding Manager
- Early Intervention Specialist
- Eligibility Specialist
- Family Advocate
- Healthy Transitions Youth and Young Adult Coordinator
- Hospitality Support Staff

### Region- Wide Vacancies

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant
- Itinerant Clinician - SOC
- Medical Coder II

JOB LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF December 6, 2019

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

TCC Closed  
January 1, 2019

TCC Closed  
January 20, 2019

## TCC WELLNESS *Tip*

### BREATHING TO RELAX

(4-7-8)

**INHALE FOR A COUNT OF FOUR**  
**HOLD FOR A COUNT OF SEVEN**  
**EXHALE FOR A COUNT OF EIGHT**

