

Vol. 46, No. 03

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

HEALTH CENTER

March 2021

# TCC Carries Out Successful Rural Vaccine Distribution

At the end of February, Tanana Chiefs Conference had successfully administered 7,985 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to eligible patients throughout the region. 3,654 of those doses were given to patients in rural communities.

TCC's priority has been to get the vaccine out to as many villages as quickly as possible, and has been successful in doing so despite the many logistical challenges that come with administering the vaccine across our vast region. The success of the vaccine distribution so far has truly been a group effort that includes planning, coordination and cooperation from a wide array of people including leadership, healthcare staff, tribal leaders, community health aides and even our local airlines. All those involved go out of their way to ensure that no dose of vaccine is wasted. This is because every drop of the vaccine is a valuable asset in ensuring that our communities are protected from COVID-19.

For more information about the vaccine and its safety, see page 4-5 of this newsletter.



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### **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



### TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Donald Honea Sr./Ruby 1st Traditional Chief

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village 2nd Traditional Chief

PJ Simon/Allakaket/Galena Chief/Chairman

Charlene Stern/Arctic Village Vice President

> Jerry Isaac/Tanacross Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit/Tanacross 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,

In the past, the month of March would bring excitement and change. Many gatherings such as the TCC and Doyon's Annual Conventions would take place, sled dog races, basketball tournaments,

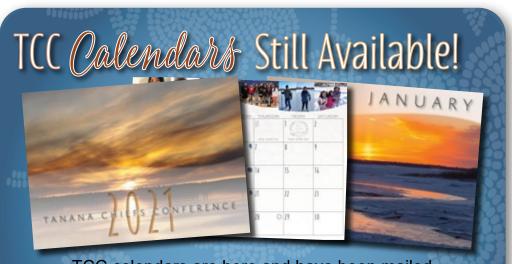
and spring carnivals were just around the corner. However, due to the ongoing pandemic many of the gatherings we look forward to will look different than they have in the past, and some may not take place at all. I would like to encourage you to connect with one another, and lift each other up as we continue to navigate these changes. With beaver trapping season well underway, I would like to urge those who were successful to share this traditional food with others. Blessing an elder with traditional foods is a sign of respect and demonstrates our traditional native values.

I know positive change is ahead, and the Team TCC continues with the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines. At the time this newsletter was published, TCC has administered 7,985 doses of vaccine – with 3,654 of those administered in our villages. This is an amazing accomplishment, and I would like to take a moment to thank our Health Services staff for all their hard work in ensuring a successful rollout.

I am looking forward to an informative and productive 2021 Annual Convention this month. Our hardworking staff will provide informative reports and highlight accomplishments to our tribes. I also look forward to hearing the priorities and guidance from our Full Board of Directors.

I hope you all take the time to tune into our convention on our website at www.tananachiefs.org/live. We are excited to continue working together to reach our vision of *Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes*.

Anaa Baaseé, PJ Simon Chief/Chairman



TCC calendars are here and have been mailed to all tribal offices in the TCC region!

Do you live outside the region or state? Send your mailing address to Communications\_Dept@tananachiefs.org and we will mail you one!

# Meet Our Executive Board First Traditional Chief Donald Honea - Ruby

First Traditional Chief Donald Honea, Sr. walks in two worlds. Before serving as a spiritual leader for the Athabascan people, he was a successful business and

community leader. Since 2008, Chief Honea has served as the First Traditional Chief of Tanana Chiefs Conference. He stepped into the role when the beloved Reverend Chief Dr. David Salmon of Chalkyitsik passed away at the

age of 95 at home in his favorite chair.

He didn't grow up living the traditional Athabascan ways. Those he learned as an adult. From the late Reverend Chief Dr. Salmon, Chief Honea learned Indigenous knowledge and wisdom from stories from him as an adult. For the first time, Chief Honea lived the "old way," living off the land with trapping and fishing and using dogs for winter travel. His brother, John, taught him how to build a fish wheel, to catch and cut up fish, cut fish and to trap. Chief Honea and his family moved to Kokrines the following spring.

"Finally, I was home," says Chief Honea. "I never felt so good in my life. I really was happier. I felt really at home among the Alaska Native people and living our traditional ways." One of 17 children, Chief Honea was born August 20, 1931 in Ruby to the late Margaret and Bill Honea.

When he was 12-years-old, the Honea family moved to Fairbanks. Soon after that, his father sent him to vocational school in Eklutna. Chief Honea married Clara McCarty in 1949. Together, tThey were blessed with 14 children.

Soon after the passage of the Alaska Native Settlement Claims Act, Chief Honea was instrumental in forming the Dineega Corporation, Ruby's village corporation, from scratch. Under his leadership, the village corporation's board of directors learned from the mistakes of other businesses and were able to wisely invest their profits.

"We didn't invest in things that we thought were too risky, said Chief Honea. "We just kind of held back and waited for the right investments."

Thanks to this foresight, Dineega Corporation owns a percentage of the stock in Denali State Bank. The business distributed dividends 15 out of the 20 years he was president. A measurement of success that few other village corporations had at that time.

### By Leona Long Public Relations Specialist

When he was trapping, Chief Honea would sometimes stay on the trapline for three or months. These experiences helped him as a dog musher. Chief Honea ran in the Iditarod seven times. As aAn accomplished musher, he was known for his kindness to his dogsled team and strong support from his sponsors.

Now retired, he has worked for the State of Alaska Department of Transportation for 35 years as an equipment operator and foreman while running dogs on nights and weekends. Chief Honea is respected by Alaskans from all walks of life for his unselfish service to the community and Alaska Native organizations. He served on the local Community School Committee for 30 years, served on the City Council for about 25 years, both as mayor and council member. His leadership roles include serving on the Doyon, Limited board, Tanana Chiefs Conference board. Kovukon Development board and RurALCAP board. He also served both as chairman and board member of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District.

"I want to impress upon Alaska Native people that they need to persevere," said Chief Honea. "Get involved in community and Alaska Native organizations. Do not sit back and complain about things. But do something about it."



# - COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions from - TRIBAL LEADERSHIP

# Once vaccinated, will we need future vaccines booster or annual shots like the flu vaccine?

We don't know. With the COVID-19 virus evolving and changing, it is likely some type of booster or repeat vaccines may be needed in the future. Some companies are working on this in case it is needed.

### **Once vaccinated, can a person catch COVID-19?**

It is not likely but it is not impossible to catch COVID once vaccinated. The vaccines available today are 95% effective for protecting you from moderate to severe illness. That means in the studies, 5% of the vaccinated patients later did get a mild case of COVID-19. Maybe others got became infected without symptoms. We don't know yet if or how often that occurs.

### **Once vaccinated, can a person spread COVID-19?**

At this time, we believe the vaccine will reduce the spread of COVID-19 but it is not clear to what extent. As noted above, a small percentage of those vaccinated do get infected later, perhaps without knowing it, and they are likely able to spread it to others. We do know the vaccine will reduce severity of illness for a person who later gets COVID-19, and in the long run fewer infected people with less severe disease will reduce transmission.

# **Can CAIHC send the COVID-19 test results to villages automatically versus the patient providing it?**

No. This is health care information of an individual and TCC is not at liberty to share that beyond the individual.

# **Do all adults or at least the majority need to be vaccinated in our community to reach herd immunity?**

There is no magic end point to reach herd immunity. We believe when we have enough people protected either from vaccine and those who have had disease that when a person is introduced to the community who has COVID-19, the virus will not be able to spread from one person to another. But this also assume people continue to wear a mask, avoid gatherings/visiting outside their household and washing hands often. At this time vaccination alone will not stop the spread. This understanding is likely to change as we learn more about the vaccines.

# Should the Council still to track travel in and out of the community and if so, is there any financial assistance from TCC for COVID-19 related work?

This is a balance of risk versus workload of a rural community to manage travel in and out. A community can consider, once a certain percentage of community is vaccinated to discontinue managing travel, this is a community decision.

Some communities have utilized tribal courts and fined residents who violate travel/quarantine restrictions.

Some communities monitor airplane travel but not inter-village travel.

TCC has distributed the all available one time funds to Tribes for COVID-19 activity.

- Tribes can use I.H.S. tribal shares
- Tribes have COVID-19 funds

### **Once vaccinated, how long will immunity last?**

We don't know. Current evidence is that the vaccine results in good immunity for most people, and is likely to last for many months, a year or more. But with the virus evolving and changing, the immunity may become less effective over time.

# **STAY UP TO DATE:**

Visit <u>www.tananachiefs.org</u> for the most recent information.

### Will Children be vaccinated? If so, which age groups?

The vaccines approved at this time are not approved for children under 16 years of age. Pfizer can be given to those 16 years of age and older. Moderna can be given to those 18 and older. Vaccine studies in children are ongoing, and we hope to hear results with recommendations soon.

### Are the vaccines effective against the new strains? How many strains are there?

The three strains highlighted in the media right now [South African, UK, Brazil] seem to spread more easily, and to be more resistant to immunity from prior infection or vaccination, meaning a person might get infected again. Thus, while the vaccines might be less effective are preventing infection, they all seem to remain quite good at preventing severe COVID-19 infections or death. While there are three main new strains now, there are many more strains with minor changes, and we should expect the virus to continue changing over time.

# **Should** a rural community still require negative COVID-19 tests results before returning to the community?

This is balance of risk versus workload of a rural community to manage travel in and out. As described above, the vaccinated person, though protected from severe illness themselves can be a carrier, and unknowingly bring the virus into the community. Having the vaccine will not result in the person having a positive COVID-19 test.

### **Once vaccinated, are we able to hold community events/gatherings?**

At this point with what we know and just importantly, what we do not know about immunity, gathering with people outside your immediate household still has a high risk of spreading COVID-19 with each other. Each community will need to balance the need for community events against the risk of spreading COVID-19.

TCC will be developing a guideline to share with rural communities that provides a spectrum of activities from less safe to safer based on a number of factors, such as number of elders vaccinated, type of event (indoor/outdoor), etc.

# Will vaccine make it safer to have surgical, medical and dental (surgery) appointments?

Yes, hospitals and medical facilities are low risk areas for spreading COVID-19 and the vaccine will protect you from serious illness if you are exposed.

# Will the vaccine make it safer for rural residents to travel for medical appointments?

Yes, but vaccination is not the only thing keeping the person and those around them safe. Because the vaccinated person may still be a carrier and bring COVID-19 home, travelers still need to wear a mask, keep social distancing space, no hand shaking, no hugs, no visiting in homes outside their own and washing hands often.

# **Should a rural community still require returning travelers to quarantine if the person who traveled is vaccinated?**

This is a challenging decision each community must make for itself. It is about understanding risks and balancing risk of exposure with activities necessary for the community. How much safety does a community want versus how much disruption in people's lives and work can be tolerated? At this point, continued quarantining would be recommended as the safest course.

### What we understand today about incubation;

The virus can take as little as 2 days to develop or a long as 14 days. Most people will turn a test positive within 7 days of being exposed but a 7 day quarantine will miss some people. We have seen people become positive up to 10 and even 14 days after exposure.

There is confusing guidance regarding quarantine; the CDC continues to say the safest quarantine time is 14 days but added two options: The first is a 7 day quarantine with a negative test at the end, and the second is a 10 day quarantine, with the understanding that maybe 5% of positive cases would be missed in either case. Each village has to balance the chance of missing a case against the benefits of reduced quarantining.

The State of Alaska is following 5 or 7 days with a test at the end.

Regardless of time imposed for quarantine, the individual must be free of COVID-19 symptoms before they come out of quarantine and need to continuously self-monitor for any of the common COVID-19 symptoms.

Quarantine time has not changed with the new strains.

# New Equipment in Radiology

Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center recently upgraded their mammography and ultrasound units to the newest software versions on the market today.

Mammography installed new software identified as C-VIEW and replaces the initial 3D mammography software that was installed when the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center opened in 2012.

When opening in 2012, the 3-D Mammogram Tomosynthesis system was groundbreaking technology. Advances in today's software now eliminates 4 seconds of exposure time and 4 images requiring to be taken resulting in a 30% reduction in images required to acquire 3D mammograms.

According to Hologic Inc., "Selenia Dimensions tomosynthesis technology has changed the paradigm of mammography. Now Hologic has advanced mammography even further with the ability to reconstruct 2D images from breast tomosynthesis data without the need for 2D exposures."

2D images generated from C-View software may be used in place of traditional 2D images as a part of the breast tomosynthesis exam. The 2D images created from C-View software are reviewed together with the tomosynthesis slices to make a clinical decision or diagnosis.

While the dose of a combined breast tomosynthesis and digital mammography exam is under the Mammogram Quality Standards Act limits and deemed safe, C-View software makes lower dose 3D mammography exams possible. And together, the combined tomosynthesis and C-View exam offers superior clinical performance for all breast types compared with 2D

alone. With this new upgrade, we now offer these benefits to our patients:

### Improved patient care

- Lower patient radiation dose, making the 3D mammography service's dose comparable to a 2D only exam.
- Shorter scan time results in less compression time and improved patient comfort.

### Improved outcomes

- Faster, 4 second scan time reduces the risk of patient motion.
- Increased diagnostic accuracy and reduced false-positive recall rates compared to 2D alone.

Additionally, the Ultrasound staff recently installed a new Philips Epic Elite ultrasound system replacing the systems that were installed at opening of Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center. The new unit employs specialized liver evaluation software and 3D imaging that produces superb detail enabling healthcare providers a clearer picture for their decision making.

New permanent digital x-ray system



Brandi Strom, Radiology Technologist prepares a new Digital Portable X-ray system for a X-ray study.

### By James E. North Radiology Director, TCC

was also installed in the new Upper Tanana Health Center in Tok. The images are taken by a Radiology Technologist or trained Tok staff and digitally sent to Chief Andrew Isaac where it is interpreted by a Radiology Physician within minutes of being taken. New state-of-the-art digital portable systems were purchased for Chief Andrew Isaac Center and regional village sites.

For questions on timelines and benefits of mammography, ultrasound, and x-ray imaging please contact your Healthcare team or Radiology Department.



Dawnia Freel prepares the Mammography Unit for a breast screening exam.



Stephanie Smith, Certified Ultrasonongrapher utilizes newest Philips ultrasound technology.



In previous years, Tanana Chief's General Assistance program has been able to assist our native people with both Burial Assistance and Emergency Assistance; with Burial paying a max of \$2,500 and Emergency a single payment of \$1,000 per household.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce both programs have been cut from the BIA General Assistance budget as of 10/01/2020.

When a loved one passes, we understand that nobody likes being passed around from agency to agency; so we try to make ourselves a one-stop-shop to handle as much as we can for those in need.

Tanana Chief's Conference does have a burial donation, which is called the Last Resource Burial. The Last Resource is a flat \$1,000 and is paid out to either the Funeral Home or the Applicant.

In order to receive this donation, the deceased must have been denied donations from three resources: the deceased's tribe, the State of Alaska and Fairbanks Native Association.

Other agencies that have Burial Assistance or Potlach funding are: the State of Alaska, Fairbanks Native Association and Doyon.

For any questions, concerns, comments or assistance regarding this information, please feel free to reach out to Julie Settle or Hannah Joe with TCC Family Services.

For more information contact: **Julie Settle • Work Assistance Program Manager** 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3390 • julie.settle@tananachiefs.org

Hannah Joe • Eligibility Specialist 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3414 • hannah.joe@tananachiefs.org

# RAYMOND DUTCHMAN

Raymond Dutchman was born in 1925 in Old Shageluk. His father was Olin Dutchman and his mother was named Flossie, maiden name Workman.

"When I was Growing up, I always had something to do," says Raymond, "Gotta go for ice, gotta go for wood..."

Sometimes, Raymond would go out on the trap line with his Dad. "My Dad, he take me along trapping with dog team," remembers Raymond, "I was riding in the sled, I remember that."

"I remember when I was about maybe 10 or 11 years old, we were playing around, about 5 or 6 of us," says Raymond, "Dog team come from lower village. Long dog team and he stopped for us." The man was named Tiny Edwards, and he was a messanger from Holy Cross. "They have little mask, two of them," remembers Raymond, "They carry with them to another village. Messenger mask."

The messenger masks were carried to extend an invitation to other villages. Soon, people from the surrounding villages, Graying, Anvik, Holy Cross, were gathering together.

"They have mask dance," he says, "For a week, all different songs."

To hear Raymond's full story, Visit www.tananachiefs.org/legacy-of-our-elders/



TCC's Legacy of our Elders series documents the lives and stories of Elders throughout the TCC region. These videos are available on our website.



# Loved Ones Seek Answerts in Missing Persons Cases

On Saturday, January 23rd a Prayer Vigil was held outside the Chief Peter John Tribal Building to raise awareness for the five missing Alaska Native people in the Fairbanks area. Jody Potts organized the event which brought together community leaders, law enforcement, concerned community members, and the families of the missing persons.

At the time this newsletter was published none of the missing person's cases have been solved for Frank Minano, Doren Sanford, Debbie Nictune, Willis Derendoff, or Steven Hjelm. All went missing in the Fairbanks area within the past six months.

"There's 10,000 Alaska Natives living in the Fairbanks area. Law enforcement, borough leadership, leadership, tribal leadership, you heard our people. We want justice," said Chief/Chairman PJ Simon during the vigil.





# WINTER Safety Tips

As we all know, winter is a great time of the year. Colder temperatures and shorter daylight does not stop us from enjoying life. COVID-19 presents us with extra reasons to play outside and safely share time with our friends and family. Whether you are traveling, playing, or walking down the road to the store, it is very important that people driving vehicles can see you.

### Here are some tips to stay visible:

- Use reflectors These come in many shapes and sizes, and are inexpensive. There are tapes, bracelets, keychains, and many more.
- Wear a reflective vest These vests are easy to find and cheaper than buying a new coat.
- Wear a head lamp These are very bright and visible.
- Wear bright colors Wearing a bright scarf, hat, sweater, or coat will double your visibility to drivers over just wearing all dark gear.





### FRANK MINANO

69 Years Old • 5'10" • 165 lbs • Black Hair • Brown Eyes

**Missing since August 17th, 2020** Last seen near Standard Creek Rd. near Old Nenana Highway

TIPS/INFORMATION CAN BE CALLED INTO:

Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100 or 800-811-0911 Incident number AK20057486 | Assigned to VPSO Mark Haglin



### **DEBRA 'DEBBIE' NICTUNE**

59 Years Old • Brown Eyes • Black hair **Missing since August 18th, 2020** Last seen at Northward Building in Fairbanks (Noble St.)

TIPS/INFORMATION CAN BE CALLED INTO: Fairbanks Police Department at 907-459-6800 Incident number 20-003030 | Assigned to Detective Adams



### DOREN SANFORD

34 years old • 5'10" • 140-160 lbs • Brown Hair • Blue Eyes **Missing since August 28th, 2020** Last seen on Airport Rd in Fairbanks

TIPS/INFORMATION CAN BE CALLED INTO: Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100 or 800-811-0911 Incident number AK20064999 | Assigned to Investigator Halbert



### **WILLIS DERENDOFF**

34 years old • 5'9" • 160 lbs • Black Hair • Brown Eyes **Missing since November 10th, 2020** Last seen in Fairbanks at Extended Stay

TIPS/INFORMATION CAN BE CALLED INTO: Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100 or 800-811-0911 Incident number AK20086592 | Assigned to Investigator Halbert

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS PLEASE CONTACT ANY OF THESE AGENCIES:

### **Alaska State Troopers**

• 907-451-5100

**Fairbanks Police Department** 

• 907-450-6500

Darrel Hildebrand, TCC VPSO Coordinator

• 907-452-8251 ext.3269



### **STEVEN HJELM**

54 years old • 5'08" • 175 lbs • Brown Hair • Brown Eyes **Missing since January 14th, 2021** Last seen near 16th Ave in Fairbanks.

TIPS/INFORMATION CAN BE CALLED INTO: Fairbanks Police Department at 907-459-6800 or Lt.Anthony Laska at alaska@fairbanks.us Incident number 21-000178 | Assigned to Lt. Anthony Laska

# End of Life Care in The TCC Region

Here at TCC, we understand that as someone is approaching their last days and weeks, it is one of the most significant times in that person's and their family's lives. We strive to provide the best care possible to help the patient and family meet any goals they might have during that time so that the patient can focus on living their best life up until the day their last breaths are taken.

Those seeking end of life care should start those discussions with their primary care provider at TCC. Patients who are experiencing an increase in Emergency Room visits or have life-limiting illnesses can talk to their provider about their healthcare wishes. Their provider will discuss the patient's goals for care – including hospice, medications, and other options.

### CHIEF ANDREW ISAAC HEALTH CENTER RESOURCES

# TCC Team Case Managers, work in collaboration with TCC Home Care Program (Village specific)

When a patient's wish is to focus on living in the village until their last breaths are taken, we have case managers that can provide telehealth support to patients and families that are in the village. Our goal is to build a strong relationship with the patient and their family to ensure they are comfortable calling whenever something is needed.

For patients enrolled in the end-oflife care case management program, a case manager will reach out to you on a scheduled basis depending on patient need and are available as needed during business hours.

TCC Case Managers are available Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm, except for holidays. You can call the main Chief Andrew Isaac Health center line and ask to be connected with a case manager.

For patients enrolled in Case Management, case managers are a direct link to your provider, so the case manager can help facilitate any needs that you may have, including help with symptom management, medications, equipment and overall care.

For weekends and holidays, the on-call physician is available to help with any emergencies, like increased discomfort.

### TCC team case managers can help with the following:

- Symptom management in conjunction with your provider
- Education about medications
- · Education about hands-on care

### TCC will provide:

- Medications
- Orders for medical equipment (keep in mind, for insurance to pay for equipment, patients must qualify(qualify for what? Insurance or hospice?)
- One time box of complimentary supplies for end-of-life care patients

Orders for supplies that are needed beyond the one-time box (keep in mind, for insurance to pay for supplies, patients must qualify, (again, qualify for what?) otherwise supplies may be purchased over the counter)

### TCC LODGING IN FAIRBANKS

### Willow House

A new room has been created at the Willow House for end-of-life care patients.

This is a short-term option for patients wishing to come to Fairbanks for hospice support in their last days, or for patients that are being discharged from Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and need a place to stay while awaiting transportation home.

Caregiving is still the responsibility of the family. Willow House does not employ caregivers as it is a hotel, and not an assisted living facility.

Medicaid does not provide payment for housing for patients at the end of life, but because we understand that end of life is a difficult time, payment goes through an approval process in order for PRC to pay for the room.

### CAREGIVING ASSISTANCE IN FAIRBANKS AND NORTH POLE AREA

### **Assisted Living**

There are assisted living homes in the Fairbanks area where a patient can choose to live if families are unable to provide 24/7 care and the patient needs assistance with their activities of daily living.

These are not owned by TCC and IHS does not provide funding for this type of living arrangement.

Patients on Medicaid can apply for the Medicaid Waiver to get funding for an assisted living home.

We recommend starting this process early, as it can take months to get this funding in place.

If you would like more information, would like to get started on the process, or would like a list of assisted living homes in the Fairbanks Area, you may reach out to our TCC Social Worker. You may call the main Chief Andrew Isaac phone number and ask to be transferred to the Social Worker.

### PCA Services

There are companies in town that can provide hands-on care in the home if families need help. Personal Care Assistants (PCAs) can help with things like dressing, bathing, toileting, grooming, minimal cooking, and minimal cleaning.

These companies are not owned by TCC and IHS does not provide funding for these services.

Patients that have Medicaid or the VA may qualify for funding.

We recommend starting this process early, as it can take Medicaid or the VA months to approve this request.

Medicaid or the VA may approve a certain number of hours per week (around 5-20) depending on what the patient qualifies for.

If you would like a list of PCA Providers in the Fairbanks Area, you may reach out to TCC Social Work by calling the main clinic phone number 451-6682.

# Heart Mapping

### By Ashley Powe Sub-Regional Prevention Coordinator

**RESOURCES** 

### FAIRBANKS AND NORTH POLE HOSPICE

For Fairbanks and North Pole based patients, we utilize Foundation Health Partners Hospice services. Hospice focuses on the whole patient, physical, social, and spiritual needs.

This service provides care to patients that are in the Fairbanks and North Pole area, if their provider estimates that they have 6 months or less left in their life. Hospice focuses on quality of life, meaning that treatment is geared toward comfort. Patients are usually done with aggressive medical treatments that are aimed at curing or treating the disease.

For more information you can visit their website: <u>https://www.foundationhealth.</u> org/services/assisted\_longterm\_care/ hospice\_

Or call them at 907-458-3090

If you would like their services, please set up an appointment with your PCP, as this requires a referral from your primary care doctor.

### RESOURCES THROUGHOUT ALASKA



## Providence Palliative Care telehealth

They provide support to patients and families in the village or Fairbanks that have a chronic illness.

For more information you can visit their website at: <u>https://alaska.providence.</u> org/locations/anchorage/palliativecare-clinic

Or call them at 907-212-7997

If you would like their services, this requires a referral from your primary care doctor

What is a heart map? A heart map is a creative way to draw and color what is special in your life? Use this template or create your own to fill your heart map with people, places, and memories that are most important to you!

Before getting started spend some time answering a few of these questions with an adult, friend, or on your own. Answer these questions in more than one word – this will help to remind you when you are coloring in your heart map.

- What makes you happy?
- What secrets do you keep in your heart (don't share them but think of a metaphor or symbol)?

- Ask yourself what is important to you?
- What people have been important to you and why?
- What memories do you have stored in your heart?
- What memories always make you smile?

- What makes you feel safe?
- What makes you feel strong and confident?
- What do you like to do in your free time?
- Who are the people you care about?
- What color represents happiness, sadness, and excitement?
- What colors represent the people in your life?

If you would like your heart map spotlighted; please submit your heart map to: ashley.powe@tananachiefs.org

For more information on **Youth Activities** contact: **TCC** • Division of Wellness & Prevention • Zhiiniidzelt'aey Project 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3164 • <u>Prevention@tananachiefs.org</u>

# COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE Spotlight

### Destiny Salmon-Itinerant Health Aide

It isn't until you are an adult that you can look back and realize who helped push or pull you along the path of childhood into a successful career Some people, like parents, know that

their job description includes teaching skills that will give you a positive start in life. Other people help you by simply doing their jobs. And others inspire without realizing it, just by being good role models. TCC itinerant health aide Destiny Salmon counts herself fortunate to have had all three types of people in her life.

Born and raised in Chalkyitsik, this summer Destiny will have been a health aide for five years. The road to this career started with her mother, Patricia Salmon. "My mom encouraged me hard to always do my best, whether at home or school." Destiny credits her mother with teaching her perseverance, even when tasks are hard. That trait of sticking with things served her well when she started the intense health aide training program.

Destiny also remembers two women who changed her life without realizing it, by being role models. "My grandmother, Minnie Salmon. She was a health aide for a time, so by example I knew that women could have careers. And then there was Mary Nathaniel, the health aide when I was a kid. I admired what she did and as a young child that inspired me. She was encouraging and was excited when she found out I applied."

> About the time she finished school and was looking for a job, Destiny saw an advertisement for a health aide position. When the tribal council learned of her interest, they helped her get the paperwork and contact the appropriate people in the health aide program. By taking an inter-

est and providing assistance, they helped change the life of one young person.

After being a health aide in Chalkyitsik for a time, Destiny decided she needed a change of pace so she transferred into a position as an itinerant health aide. "The system is very flexible. Leda Cruger, the assistant for the health aide program, sends out a monthly email listing all the villages that need temporary help at their clinics and you let her know if you are interested. If you especially like a certain area, you can let her know that and she will notify you if a slot there opens up. Most of the postings are for 10 days to two weeks, but some are longer. When you get back home after a posting, you let them know when you are ready to go out again and they'll fit you in. I'm grateful for her and all the

### By Linden Staciokas

work she does for our department, but especially the health aides."

Destiny also wanted to call out her supervisor, Jo Miller, for being a good role model and boss. "She is just the best. Actually, she is ahead of the game."

"My favorite part of the job are the people I work with. This is a hard position, and working with people who understand and talk about their experience with you helps a lot. Another favorite part of the job is helping people."

Asked what she would say to someone considering applying to become a health aide, Destiny said, "I would tell them just to apply. I am very encouraging."

Jo Miller has witnessed this encouraging attitude during the time she has been Destiny's supervisor. "Working with Destiny over these past years has been such a pleasure. She has always been hardworking and her consistent 'get it done' attitude has carried her through many challenges. She is always willing to lend a hand to her fellow health aides and also serves as a mentor, both personally and professionally, to many others including youth. Choosing a career as a health aide is not easy, but Destiny is top notch' and no doubt will continue to excel in a very bright future ahead."



Valerie Davidson 2021 Annual Convention Keynote Speaker

Valerie Nurr'araaluk Davidson, a Yup'ik and enrolled tribal member of the Orutsaramiut Traditional Native Council of Bethel, was appointed by Governor Walker as Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services in 2014. During her tenure, Davidson implemented Medicaid Expansion, Medicaid Reform and the Alaska Tribal Child Welfare Compact. Davidson served as Alaska's first Alaska Native female Lieutenant Governor in the final weeks of the Walker Administration. Davidson previously served as Senior Director of Legal & Intergovernmental Affairs for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, and as Chair of the Tribal Technical Advisory Group to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Davidson currently serves as President to the Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage. Davidson considers her brilliant, funny, and kind children to be her greatest accomplishment.

tgenda at-a-Glance

2021 Annual Delegate & Full Board of Directors Meeting

### WEDNESDAY MARCH 17

8:15 a.m. Call to Order - Annual Delegates Meeting

Invocation

Welcome Addresses

**Presentation of Colors** 

**Moment of Silence** 

**Committee Assignments** 

Adjourn - Annual Delegates Meeting

8:30 a.m. Call to Order - Annual Full Board of Directors

### **Credentials Committee Report**

**Roll Call & Establishment of Quorum** 

### Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of 09/30/20 & 10/13/20 Minutes

Executive Session - At any point in time if req'd

**TCC Chief's Report** Action Item: Ratify Behavioral Health Plan / Strategy and H&FTF Plan / Strategy-from the November 2019 Summit

### **Question & Answer**

**TCC Finance Report** 

**Question and Answer** 

Introduction of Theme & Keynote Speaker

### **Keynote Address**

- 12:00 p.m. Working Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Elders Addresses

Youth Addresses

- 1:45 p.m. Health Department Report
- 2:35 p.m. Sovereignty and Safety

"Invisible No More" - Missing Indigenous Persons Update

- 3:30 p.m. Candidate Question & Answer Session
- 4:45 p.m. TCC Rural Clinics 105(I) Leases
- 5:00 p.m. Recess Annual Full Board of Directors

### HURSDAY MARCH 18

8:15 a.m. Reconvene/Call to Order - Annual Full Board of Directors

Invocation - TBD

- 8:25 a.m. Alaska Federation of Native Report
- 8:45 a.m. Resolutions Committee Report Consideration of Resolutions
- 11:30 a.m. **2021 Resolution Recognition** Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

Kevin Illingsworth

- 12:00 p.m. Working Lunch -
- 2020 & 2021 Patti Hyslop Award Recognition -1:15 p.m. Tanana Tribe

2019-09 Recognition of Tom Kriska, Koyukuk

### **Election Committee Report**

**Ratification of SRAB Elections** 

IRHA Board of Commissioners Elections

**TCC Secretary/Treasurer Elections** 

### Swearing in Ceremony

5:00 p.m. Adjourn - Annual Full Board of Directors Meeting



### Watch The Live Broadcast



To watch, please go to <u>www.tananachiefs.org/live</u> Live video will also be viewable at all digital signage locations and also on our Facebook page.

### Join the Conversation!



Use #tananachiefs2021 on social media to join in on the conversation regarding the convention.

# **Election Criteria: 2021 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting**

### SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

### TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Subregional Positions:

### 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)
- Except for the President, full-time employees of the corporation shall not be eligible to serve as directors or officers of the Corporation. (Article 4, Section 2)
- Must successfully pass (DHSS) 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 Board and Health Advisory Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chair of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. All candidates must take and pass a drug test prior to their respective spring 2021 Subregional Advisory Board Meeting, according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected.

### **TCC ADVISORY BOARDS**

The TCC Regional Health Advisory Board's purpose as described in Article 4, Section 2, of the TCC bylaws is to ensure Alaska Native participation and determination in every phase of TCC's health service delivery. The Health Advisory Board, Education Council and Tribal College are advisory and make recommendations to the TCC Executive Board and Chief/Chairman. All candidates must be Alaska Native.

### **TCC Regional Health Board**

Currently Walter Stickman, Nulato

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Must successfully pass (DHSS) 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 Board and Health Advisory Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chair of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. All candidates must take and pass a drug test prior to their respective spring 2021 Subregional Advisory Board Meeting, according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected.

### **TCC Education Council**

Lower Yukon Subregion	3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently VACANT	
Vukon Elats Subregion	$3 vear term (2021_2021)$

Yukon Flats Subregion	
Currently Nellie Winer	
Yukon Koyukuk Subregion	3 year term (2021-2024)
Currently Gertie Sam	

### Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

- Upper Kuskokwim Subregion......3 year term (2021-2024) Currently VACANT
- Yukon Koyukuk Subregion......3 year term (2021-2024) Currently Jenny Pelkola, Louden
- Lower Yukon Subregion......3 year term (2021-2024) Currently Margie Walker

#### Important Dates for the 2021 TCC Elections Submit between now and February 16th: March 5th at 5:00pm:

Submit between now and February 16th: 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.

d 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.

February 4th at 8:00am The open period in which a candidate may declare written candidacy begins. Please confirm receipt of your letter of intent.

March 18th: TCC elections held at the TCC Full Board of Directors Annual Meeting at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks.

### FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

2021 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; the elections rules are posted on the TCC website at <u>www.tananachiefs.org</u> under the 2021 TCC Annual Convention information and will also be enclosed in the Official Call to the March 2021 Full Board of Directors meeting that will be mailed to TCC member tribes. A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Natasha Singh, General Counsel, at ext. 3008.

### TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Officers must be members of a member village of the corporation and eligible to be selected as a Director of a member village. (Article 5, Section 1)
- Must successfully pass an ICPA and (DHSS) 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 Advisory Board of Directors, with the exception of the Chief/Chair of the Board who is an employee who follows the employee policy. All candidates must take and pass a drug test one week prior to the March 2021 spring Subregional Advisory Board meetings according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected.

### **Ratify Youth Advisor to Executive Board**

Ratify election of Youth Advisor to Executive Board by Emerging Leaders Currently Jolie Murray, Beaver

### **IRHA Board of Commissioners**

### New since the 2020 TCC Elections:

Individuals must now submit a letter of intent to declare themselves a candidate for IRHA Board of Commissioners within the 30 day time frame, the same as any other candidate in the TCC elections, per the TCC Elections Rules

- Seat A...... 3 year term (2021-2024) Currently Larry Nathaniel, Circle
- - 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)
  - Board of Commissioner Members are required to submit to drug testing upon election or reelection. BOC members are required to adhere to the other testing requirements of that policy, including testing on suspicion, at random and post-accident. Failure to comply shall be grounds for discipline. Newly elected and reelected BOC members shall be tested the next business day after being elected. (12/21/18 Resolution 2018-13)

#### \*AFN Village Representative

The AFN Village Representative will no longer be elected at the TCC March Convention; it will be elected annually at the AFN convention by the TCC Region Village Corporations.

### 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 February 4, 2021 and 5:00 PM-March 5, 2021.

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 5, 2021** to:

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

### We recommend that you confirm the receipt of your letter of intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to 5:00 PM March 5, 2021.

We will confirm your letter of intent as it is received, but if you do not receive a confirmation, please call 1-800-478-6822, ext. 3118 prior to 5:00 PM March 5, 2021. Any questions, please contact Natasha Singh in the Legal Department at 1-800-478-6822, extension 3178.

# **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 16th 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.

### 2021 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 2021 Full Board of Director's roll call.

I.	021 and 5 p.m. March 5, 2021). 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	or. Example: Secretary/Treasurer, Subregional Executive Board, TCC Health Board, TCC Education C	ouncil or /ATC)
Signature	City, State, Zip Code	
Ū.		
Print Name	Phone Number	
shall not employ individuals that have committed certai dures to implement the ICPA background checks and the Barrier Crime Act, when applicable. Nominees must fill-out a background check application 2021 to allow for processing before the election. Only the	Act, 25 USC sec. 3207 provides that each tribal organization that receives funds under the Indian Self-Determination and Edu crimes when the position involves regular or foreseeable contact with Indian children. The TCC Executive Board has reviewe be Board requires all Executive Board of Directors, Health Board of Directors and TCC employees to pass ICPA background che The background check application can be obtained from Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director at ext. 3095, and is due be candidates that pass the background check will be official candidates for the 2021 Full Board of Directors' elections. etter of Intent with the TCC Executive Secretary prior to 5:00 P.M. March 5, 2021.	ed and passed proce- necks and the Alaska

### 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

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.



# Find Your Purpose JOIN OUR TEAM: WWW.TANANACHIEFS.ORG/CAREERS

#### **Village Vacancies**

- Alatna: Community Health Aide/ Practitioner
- Allakaket: Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Community Health Representative, Village Public Safety Officer
- Anaktuvuk Pass: Behavioral Health Aide
- Anvik: Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook, Village Public Safety Officer
- Arctic Village: Home Care Provider, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook, Tribal Administrator-Onsite Supervisor, Village Public Safety Officer
- Chalkyitsik: Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/ Practitioner, Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- Circle: Carpenter, Laborer, Project Supervisor, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Family Youth Specialist
- Dot Lake: Behavioral Health Aide, Home Care Provider
- Eagle: Home Care Provider, Village Public Safety Officer
   Evansville: Community Health
- Aide/Practitioner, Elder Nutrition Cook
- Fort Yukon: Home Care Provider, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Preschool Lead Teacher

- Galena: Home Care Provider, Infant/Toddler Teacher, Nurse Practioner -Primary Care, Service Desk Technition
- **Grayling**: Village Public Safety Officer
- Healy Lake: Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- Holy Cross: Home Care
  Provider
- Hughes: Community Health Aide/ Practitioner, Family Visitor
- Huslia: Home Care Provider, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Village Public Safety Officer
- Kaltag: Community Health Aide/ Practitioner, Family Visitor, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
   Kounkulty: Conserted Laboration
- **Koyukuk**: Carpenter, Laborer, Project Supervisor, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- Manley Hot Springs: Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- **McGrath**: Preschool Assistant Teacher, Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- **Nenana**: Behavioral Health Aide, Infant/Toddler Teacher
- **Nikolai**: Home Care Provider **Northway**: Behavioral Health Aide, Carpenter x2, Laborer x2,
- Aide, Carpenter x2, Laborer x2, Community Health Aide/Practitioner,

Preschool Assistant Teacher, Project Supervisor, Village Public Safety Officer

- Nulato: Behavorial Health Aide, Home Care Provider, Village Public Safety Officer
- Old Minto: Camp Counselor, Old Minto Family Recovery Camp Traditional Counselor
- Rampart: Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- Ruby: Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner,
- Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook • Shageluk: Tribal Administrator -
- Onsite Supervisor
- Stevens Village: Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- Tanacross: Behavioral Health Aide, Preschool Lead Teacher
- Tetlin: Community Health Aide/ Practitioner, Village Public Safety Officer
- Tok: Nurse Practioner UTHC, Service Desk Technician, Tok Sub -Regional Primary Care Physician, Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member
- Venetie: Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor, Village Public Safety Officer

### **Region- Wide Vacancies**

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner
  Itinerant
- · Trades and Training Coordinator





EARLY BIRD Deadline FRI FEB 19 | 5pm Acst Vote online by the early bird deadline to be entered to win prizes totaling \$21,000!

PROXY Deadline TUE MAR 16 5 pm axor

VOTE Online eproxy.doyon.com

907-459-2000 www.doyon.com



2020 & 2021 Annual Elections Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall Friday, March 12 at 3-7 p.m.



JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF FEBRUARY 22, 2021

For more information contact Administration at 907-452-1648 or visit our website, www.fairbanksnative.org