

# the council

*Dena' Nena' Hénash • Our Land Speaks*

Vol. 46, No. 08

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

August 2021



## TCC Partnership Boat Trip

At the end of July, Chief/Chairman PJ Simon, TCC staff, Vice President Charlene Stern and Executive Board members were joined by representatives from several different entities on a 3-day boat trip to visit the communities of Nenana, Tanana, Rampart and Stevens Village. The trip was organized by Tanana Chiefs Conference

and provided a unique opportunity for tribes and tribal members to educate others about their concerns and priorities.

The trip included representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Senator Lisa Murkowski's office,

Senator Dan Sullivan's office, the Alaska State Troopers, the Golden Heart Foundation, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the Rasmuson Foundation, Interior Regional Housing Authority, and GCI.



**In This  
Issue:**

**Welcome New  
Leadership**  
Page 3-4

**Advocating for our  
Tribes**  
Page 5

**Provider  
Spotlight**  
Page 6

**CHA  
Spotlight**  
Page 9



## 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*

Charlie Wright/Rampart  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Herbie Demit/Tanacross  
*Upper Tanana*

Claude 'Joe' Petruska/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*

Alex Hanna/Minto  
*Youth Advisor*

## CHIEF'S REPORT

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,



For thousands of years, our elders have watched for natural indicators to prepare our communities for hunting, fishing and gathering activities. They learned to study the birds, insects and plants to know when, and how many salmon will come. Growing up in Allakaket, my elders taught me to look at the cotton flying from the trees, and listen to the tlaatlooth (bird) to know when to expect the chum salmon to make their way down the Yukon River and up the Koyukuk. Our people's traditional knowledge continues to be important for successful fishing management.

Several years ago our elders and fishers predicted that the salmon count would be low this year, and the managers at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have confirmed this. TCC is sharing our Tribal advocates' concerns and observations with the managers, and elected officials who hire and appoint decision makers. We are advocating for solutions to help provide for our future generations.

Protecting our traditional hunting and fishing way of life is a top priority for Team TCC. In July, we formed a new division - the Tribal Resource Commission, and Ben Stevens will head this new division. This new commission brings the Hunting and Fishing Task Force, and the Yukon Inter-Tribal Fish Commission together to better meet the needs of our tribes.

Team TCC and I have been traveling to our communities and listening to our Chiefs', and Tribal Members' concerns. TCC leadership and representatives from the ADFG recently visited Huslia, Nulato and Holy Cross to meet with community members and listen to the challenges they are experiencing. After these visits, we reached out to a reporter from the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, and the reporter ran a three-part series, and an editorial advocating for our Tribal Members' concerns about the lack of salmon fishing this summer.

In the next few weeks, our Tribal Resource Commission will bring a delegation from the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, which is the body that manages the Bering Sea Fisheries, out to the Interior villages. We want them to hear directly from our village residents who are dependent on the salmon runs, and bear the burden of the historically flawed commercial fishing industry. In addition, TCC's years of work on the Magnuson Stevens Act Reauthorization (MSA) was included in Chairman Huffman's bill, and for the first time subsistence is included throughout the MSA.

Now is the time to put away as much food as possible for the winter months because we cannot rely on salmon to fill our freezers for the winter. Our people are resilient and have relied upon many species of animals and fish to survive, and will continue to live our traditional way of life. It's important to take the young people with you when you go out on the land. Taking the young people with you will teach them a strong work ethic, and teach them to take pride in our way of life. Fall is fast approaching, and now is the time to fish sheefish and whitefish, hunt for birds and go berry picking to fill your freezer.

As always, Team TCC continues to work to achieve our vision of *Healthy, Strong Unified Tribes*.

Anaa Baaseé,  
PJ Simon  
Chief/Chairman

# Welcome New Leadership!



## Ben Stevens, *Tribal Resource Commission Manager*

Last month, TCC formed a new division - the Tribal Resource Commission, under Tribal Client Services. This new division will bring together the Hunting and Fishing Task Force as well as the Yukon Inter-Tribal Fish Commission to better meet the needs of our tribes. Ben Stevens who has worked as TCC's Hunting and Fishing Task Force Coordinator for many years has been selected to lead this new division.

Ben Stevens is Koyukon from Stevens Village, Alaska. Prior to working with TCC's Hunting and Fishing Task Force, Ben served as the Executive Director of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG), the tribal consortium of Tribes located in Yukon Flats. He has also served as CATG's Policy Analyst and Self-Governance Coordinator where he lead negotiations to secure the first-ever Self-Governance agreements between the Fish & Wildlife Service and BLM's Alaska Fire Service to bring jobs to the village.

Prior to CATG, Ben served the people of Alaska in local, regional and state-wide capacities involving health care and natural resource program development. In his hometown of Stevens Village, he helped the Tribal Council develop a Tribal natural resource program designed to protect and preserve resources the Tribe relies upon. After serving as its Director, Ben moved on to the state-wide level where he worked to facilitate Tribal natural resource management strategic planning.

Ben was raised in the village by his Grandma Hilda Stevens and trained by his grandpas and uncles. He graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School and Fort Lewis College in Colorado.



## Deborah Kvasnikoff, *Deputy Director of Behavioral Health*

As the new Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, I am excited to join the Behavioral Health team and to help serve our tribal members and families. This position offers new and exciting challenges for me as we prepare for our CARF Accreditation Survey and I begin to learn more about our programs and services.

I graduated from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, College of Rural Alaska with a Bachelor's Degree in Rural Development and Small Business Management. Throughout my career, I have almost 10 years of professional experience in managing Behavioral Health programs including adult and youth residential programs, working with the severe and persistently mentally ill in a clubhouse setting providing fully integrated care, and community health outpatient programs.

I have at least 25 years of working with tribal programs and almost 10 years of experience working with the member Tribes of Tanana Chiefs Conference. I've administered programs funded by the State of Alaska CBHTR Grant, SAMHSA, and CACFP grant programs.

I hope to bring value to our services by supporting our team with all of the important work helping others on their wellness journey.

**Continued on page 4**



## TCC Now Offering Child Care Assistance Coverage for Subsistence Activities!

Are you engaged in subsistence activities such as hunting, fishing, berry picking, gardening, food preservation or wood cutting? Did you know that if you have children under the age of 13 we can pay a family relative to provide child care for them while you are doing these activities? That's right, if a family relative is willing to be an approved child care provider we can pay! Usually a grandparent or a close relative are already providing care your children so why not have them get paid. If you would like further information please contact us at 907-452-8251 ext. 3365 or email us at [childcare@tananachiefs.org](mailto:childcare@tananachiefs.org).



# Welcome New Leadership!

Continued from page 3



## Dewey Kk'oleyo Hoffman, *Deputy Director of Tribal Government & Client Services*

Kk'oleyo se'ooze'. Tleeyegg'e hət'aan eslaanh. Bedzeyh te hət'aan eslaanh. Sedelnekkaa Dee Olin K'etse'hultoono yet David Hoffman Kk'oneeh'ol yet heelaanh. Setseye kkaa enaa'e bedelnekkaa Fred Olin yet Lillian Olin yet hegheelaa'. Setseye kkaa enaa'e bedelnekkaa John Honea yet Lorraine Honea yet hegheelaa'. Setseye kkaa etaa'e bedelnekkaa George Hoffman yet Helen Hoffman yet hegheelaa'. Tlaa'ologhe huts'enh ts'aadaanslet dehoon Fairbanks les-do. Denaakk'e hedohudege'eh dehoon hedo'k'uhude'eeghenh. Uvaṇa Putyuk. Aṇayuukaaka Dee Olin-lu David Hoffman-lu. Tinaagmiuguruṇa. Atqasugiksuaq anirunṇa. Nuliaga Kunaq. Paniḡa Inṇaḡana. Ilisaniaqtunṇa Iṇupiatun.

My name is Dewey Hoffman. My Denaakk'e name Kk'oleyo means "walking." My Iṇupiaq name Putyuk means "pinch." I am Koyukon Athabaskan, Caribou People, originally from Ruby living in Fairbanks. I am learning and teaching my language. My mother is Dee Olin, grandparents Fred Olin, Sr. and Lillian Olin of middle Yukon and adopted grandparents John and Lorraine Honea of Ruby. My father is David Hoffman, grandparents George and Helen Hoffman of Bozeman, Montana. My wife is Marjorie Kunaq Tahbone (Iṇupiaq/Kiowa) of Nome, Alaska and our daughter is Telele Inṇaḡana.

"My background and life experiences growing up across Alaska and living abroad instilled in me a strong pride and interest in many cultures and languages. Supporting our Alaska Native Elders and youth helps me stay connected to our communities our Tribes. I am thrilled to join such a powerful organization that protects our Ancestral homelands and peoples and works to carry our values into the future."



## Jason Johnson, Sr., *Director of Family and Workforce Services*

Jason began as an intern with the Behavioral Health Division as a UAF student assisting with prevention and intervention services. After graduation, he joined the Tobacco prevention team and continued with the transition into the newly formed Division of Wellness & Prevention where he eventually moved into Health & Safety. Community engagement is one of his passions. Jason has just began his eighth year with Tanana Chiefs. When not at work, Jason and his wife, of 18 years, Antoinette love chasing their 5 kids around.

## Going Hunting Soon? Practice Gun Safety!

There are no second chances with a gun. Review these rules for safe gun handling and practice and remind others to follow them. The rules for safe gun handling must always be followed to avoid accidents.

1. Always treat the gun as loaded.
2. Keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
3. Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
4. Always keep the gun unloaded until you are ready to use it.
5. Never point the gun at anything you do not intend to destroy.
6. Be sure of your target and what is behind it.
7. Know your gun, and how to use it.
8. Always use proper ammunition.

9. Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before loading and shooting.
10. If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, hold your shooting position for several seconds; then with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, carefully unload the gun.
11. Don't rely on the gun's safety to keep it from firing.
12. Be aware of your surroundings when handling guns so you don't trip or lose your balance and accidentally point and/or fire the gun at anyone or anything.



# Advocating for our Tribes

On July 14th, TCC was honored to have Commissioner James Cockrell with the Alaska Department of Public Safety and Colonel Bryan Barlow Director for the Alaska State Troopers visit our offices to discuss the public safety concerns of the TCC region. We appreciate the opportunity to work together to address the issues that are so important to our tribes and tribal members.

**PICTURED:** Colonel Bryan Barlow, Commissioner James Cockrell, Chief/Chairman PJ Simon, President of Healy Lake Patricia McDonald, and VPSO Coordinator Darrel Hildebrand.



On July 14th, TCC leadership had the honor of meeting with Commissioner Adam Crum of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and Commissioner Tamika Ledbetter with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce development to discuss workforce development and healthcare partnership opportunities.

**PICTURED:** Brian Ridley, Jacoline Bergstrom, Natasha Singh, Commissioner Adam Crum, Chief PJ Simon, Commissioner Tamika Ledbetter, Amber Vaska, and Marilyn Andon.



On July 15th, TCC leadership met with Commissioner Cori Feige (Department of Natural Resources), Commissioner Jason Brune (Department of Environmental Conservation), Deputy Commissioner Brent Goodrum (Department of Natural Resources), Commissioner Doug Vincent Lang (Department of Fish and Game), Deputy Attorney General Cori Mills (Department of Law) and Commissioner Julie Anderson (Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development). Team TCC appreciated the opportunity to address issues that are important to our tribes including Power Cost Equalization, Native allotments, workforce development, and the Yukon River fish crisis.

**PICTURED:** Amber Vaska, Commissioner Vincent-Lang, Commissioner Feige, Chief PJ Simon, Deputy Attorney General Mills, Natasha Singh, Ben Stevens, Darrel Hildebrand, and Commissioner Brune.



On July 15th, TCC had the honor of hosting Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, Heidi Hedberg, Director of Alaska's Division of Public Health, and Verné Boerner, President and CEO of the Alaska Native Health Board. They met with TCC Health Services Leadership to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic response and how they can work collaboratively with TCC to address Public Health issues in the interior.

**PICTURED:** Dr. Anne Zink, Heidi Hedberg, Verne Boerner, Jamie Roush, and Jacoline Bergstrom.



Last month, Chief Simon had the opportunity to meet with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during his visit to Fort Wainwright where he presented him with a Chiefs necklace.

**PICTURED:** Benno Cleveland, Julie Fate-Sullivan, Janine Avner, Chief Simon, Secretary Ustin, Tanya Kaquatosh and Greg Bringhurst.





## Provider Spotlight Dr. Tammy Huntington

Courtesy of *Gana-A'Yoo, Limited Newsletter*

Galena has had the good fortune of having Dr. Tammy Huntington provide services to the community as well as the outlying villages of Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaltag, Ruby and Huslia since fall 2009.

Dr. Huntington went to college in Iowa and medical school in Kansas City, Missouri, and proceeded to fulfill her residency at Providence Medical Center in Anchorage. Following residency, she and her family moved to Galena after coming to an agreement with the Tanana Chiefs Conference and the City of Galena to become Galena's first physician.

Dr. Huntington's professional goal throughout her education was providing rural care. She enjoys the rural lifestyle and rural medicine, explaining, "My passion is rural medicine; it is a rewarding lifestyle."

In school, Dr. Huntington took a wilderness medicine track and took specific rotations to gain skills for a uniquely rural lifestyle. She stated, "I trained in areas that I knew could

translate to a rural clinic, focusing on how to be effective in a rural setting."

She appreciates knowing her patients well and the interpersonal relationships she has made. She said, "The beauty of having the time to listen to our patients cannot be undervalued; lasting relationships with a patient is the way to help with some of the most difficult health problems, such as depression and addiction – issues that cannot just be fixed in the short term. Showing that continuity is super important."

Over a decade into her practice at the Galena Health Clinic, Dr. Huntington and the medical team faced the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, which changed nearly all of how they functioned as a clinic and how they delivered care. Dr. Huntington commended community leadership and how the community worked well together.

One project that came to fruition was the building of a new cabin, in conjunction with Loudon Tribal Council, that now serves as an emergency exam room. The cabin was built in two weeks and a local artist painted the interior, complete with handprints from students. "We have an amazing team; we have skill sets that rely on each other and we trust each other." – Dr. Huntington

Dr. Huntington recently decided to take a sabbatical to a relatively small community on the north coast of the north island in New Zealand. Although it is not easy for her and her family to uproot for a year, she is nonetheless excited for her and her family to travel, broaden their perspective and return home refreshed. "I love the staff, I love and know my patients well, though sometimes it is important to shake it up a bit," she said.

Huntington is the daughter of Phil and Debbie Koontz of Galena, the wife of Andrew Huntington and the mother of Paul, Milo and Zac.



## Bear Safety in Alaska

Bears are curious, intelligent and tend to avoid or ignore people, but they can be dangerous. Many bears live in Alaska and many people enjoy the outdoors, but surprisingly few people see bears and only a few of those are ever threatened by a bear. However, respecting bears and learning proper behavior can help you avoid conflict - and help you know how to react if you do see a bear.

- Make noise so you don't surprise a bear. Stay alert and look for signs of bears.
- Never approach or crowd bears; respect their "personal space."
- Keep food, garbage and other attractants out of reach of bears.
- Stay calm during a bear encounter. Ready your deterrent. Stand your ground, group up with others and alert the bear by talking calmly. Don't run.

In most cases, bears are not a threat, but they do deserve your respect and attention.



# Monitoring Patient Satisfaction

At the end of last year, the exam rooms of the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center and the Upper Tanana Health Center were equipped with SyncTime monitors. These devices are mounted on the wall of the exam rooms, and ultimately creates an effective way to communicate, locate staff, and can be used as a tool to help measure and improve the patient's wait times while receiving services.



Without an effective communication system in place, patients sometimes experienced being left alone in the exam room for over 30 minutes. The Customer Experience staff saw the opportunity to use the new SyncTime monitors as a tool to improve patient satisfaction. The team is notified immediately when service recovery is needed. Service recovery is an indication the patient's experience is unsatisfactory and the team will round

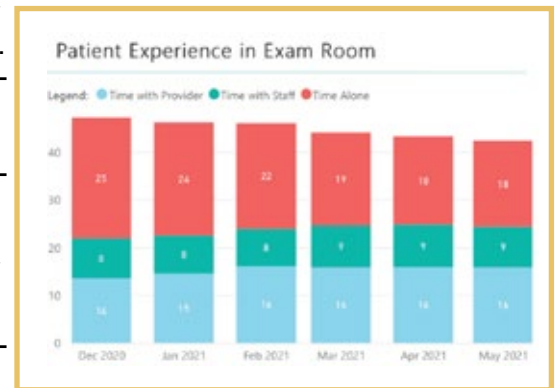
with the patient by going into the patient's room, introduce themselves and check in with the patient to see how their experience can become satisfactory by listening, apologizing, and addressing concerns right away. The team is also notified if a patient's wait time has exceeded 15 minutes and they will check in with the care team to see if they are able to provide the patient any information or service recovery.

Leilani Sauer, the Customer Experience Manager explains, "The goal is to be proactive instead of reactive when it comes to customer service. Rounding using SyncTimes notifications is a win-win because we are connecting with and supporting patients, family members and staff as a whole."

Within eight months of implementing SyncTime, there has been a 28% decrease in patient alone time in the exam room, and a 14% (2.9 minute)

increase in the average patient time with support staff and provider.

The Primary Care Nurse Manager, Trinity Marrapodi expressed, "Since starting SyncTimes our employee and patient satisfaction have increased significantly. We have been able to improve on communication, safety, alone times and flow of patient care. Not only do our patients now have a way to request for help, but our staff do as well."



## TCC DENTAL CLINIC

As of August 1st, 2021

TCC Dental is expanding access to urgent care dental appointments by having a modified walk-in system. To allow for social distancing we will offer appointments in Zones.

**Zone 1:** Check in at 7:45am

**Zone 2:** Check in at 9:45am

**Zone 3:** Check in at 1:45pm

Patients will be assigned a Zone and will be seen in order of urgency.

**Patients must present at the designated check in time in order to be seen.**

Each Zone is 2-3 hours in length. This is the length of time you should prepare to wait to be seen.

**TCC Dental Clinic**  
907-451-6682 x3200

For questions or concerns please contact the Dental Clinic



# What Can You Do To Prevent Bullying?

Bullying impacts everyone and should be taken seriously. Stopbullying.gov reports that bullying affects everyone involved – the youth being bullied, the bully, and those witnessing the bullying happening. Bullying can have long-lasting effects for all involved.

There are various types of bullying that include verbal, social, physical, and electronic. Bullying can create feelings of depression, anxiety, isolation, rejection, exclusion, and despair. The impact of bullying may cause youth to struggle in other areas of their life, like academics.

Bullying can be defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

## Signs of bullying may include but are not limited to:

- ♥ Mood Swings
- ♥ Withdrawal
- ♥ Loss of interest in school
- ♥ Ongoing or sudden illness
- ♥ Change in social groups
- ♥ Few friends
- ♥ Unexplainable or suspicious bruises/injuries
- ♥ Avoidance in social settings
- ♥ Belongings damaged or missing
- ♥ Loss of appetite
- ♥ Anxious or fearful
- ♥ Low self-esteem/confidence

## What can you do to prevent bullying?

- ♥ Ask questions if you suspect bullying
- ♥ Respond and take action immediately
- ♥ Support Youth
- ♥ Keep communication open
- ♥ Model kind behaviors
- ♥ Educate youth on bullying
- ♥ Educate yourself on bullying
- ♥ Listen to youth
- ♥ Have a plan when responding
- ♥ Ensure safety
- ♥ Monitor internet use
- ♥ Create a safe environment
- ♥ Engage with youth
- ♥ Encourage youth to prevent bullying
- ♥ Follow up with youth, schools, and service providers

For More Information on Bullying Prevention Contact:

**TCC • Division of Wellness & Prevention • Zhiiniidzelt'aey Project**

(907) 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3164 • [prevention@tananachiefs.org](mailto:prevention@tananachiefs.org)

## For more information visit websites and resources:

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/facts>

<https://www.thecenteronline.org/prevention/prevention-projects/green-dot/>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/childrens-health/in-depth/bullying/art-20044918>

### KnowBullying Mobile App

<https://store.samhsa.gov/product/knowbullying>

**Care line:** 1-877-266-4357 (HELP) or text 4help to 839863

**Suicide Hot line:** 1-800-273-8255

For More Information on Behavioral Health Services Contact:

**TCC • Behavioral Health Services**

(907) 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 452-8251 Ext. 3800 - After Hours Press Option 2



# COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE *Spotlight*

## Sharon Demoski - Nulato Health Aide

By Linden Staciokas

Talking to Sharon Demoski to get the information to write this profile about her was like being given a shot of enthusiasm and energy. Throughout our conversation, it was clear that fifteen years as a health aide, mostly in her home village of Nulato but sometimes as an itinerant, has not dimmed her passion for her work.



It was not a straight path. She had been interested in the health field as far back as high school, and in the late 1980's she became a health aide. However, six months into the position she realized she was not ready for the responsibility, so she left and came back in 2007, after gaining more employment and life experience. This time it was the right time.

"I love it. I love being able to help my community, even the people who complain about us. I love, really love, the fact that I learn new things almost every single day. I love watching the EMTs when they come here to get a patient, because I am always picking up tips from them. I cannot thank my two awesome co-workers enough: Martina Ekata and Sharon Agnes, who make the work easier and have taught me so much."

"And I want to be sure to mention the CHAP employees and instructors. I am so thankful for how they go out

of their way to help the health aides. Those instructors will go all the way with you, even if it means they have to do one-on-one work with you to help you understand something."

There have been many changes over the years, but Sharon is especially grateful for two of them. The first is that the information that used to be contained in three giant books she had to lug around, one for medications and one for diagnoses and one general reference book, have all been transferred to a lightweight iPad. The second is that health aides no longer function as travel agents. These days a CHAP program employee in Fairbanks figures out the details of flights, hotel reservations, food, and taxis for patients who must fly into Fairbanks or Anchorage.

When she is not working, Sharon can be found beading, berry picking, or snow machining. This last winter she took up crocheting, something she used to watch her late mother do. She also likes to travel, but only for limited time periods. One of the hardest aspects of coming back to being a health aide was that three of the four training sessions, each of them four weeks long, were held in Anchorage. "I did not like leaving home and my four children for that long and I don't

really like cities. I remember crying that first night in Anchorage because I was missing my children and I didn't really know what I was getting myself into. I owe and I am so thankful for the love and support I got from my mother; she was the backbone of me going into the health field. She was the one who took care of the children while I was away. The fourth session was held in Sitka, which was better not only because it was smaller but because my oldest daughter was there completing her senior year at Mt. Edgecumbe High School."

One of Sharon's personal missions is to encourage others to become health aides. She talks up the job whenever she has the opportunity. She wants people to understand that learning the skills to help others when they are most vulnerable is very rewarding, and that the job offers excellent pay and benefits, plus it gives you the opportunity to meet and often become friends with a huge variety of colleagues. And though some may be intimidated by the amount of training required, she wants to reassure them that the instructors and other students will support them all the way. "The work is great, TCC is a good employer and I have made life-long friends." Not many jobs can offer all that.

"Fifteen years this coming January, and I still love it," she says in her cheerful fashion.

# ALASKA REAL ID CARD

## DEADLINE EXTENDED

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Department of Homeland Security announced that **the deadline to obtain a Real ID has been extended to May 3rd, 2023**. A real ID is used as identification to board a domestic flight or enter military bases and most federal facilities.

**GET IT BY  
MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2023**



### STEP 1: ESTABLISH YOUR IDENTITY

To apply for a REAL ID card, you must present one identity document, which shows your date of birth, true full name, identity and U.S. citizenship or lawful status. Select a document that has your current true full name (first, middle and last). An original document or certified copy is required.



### STEP 2: CHECK YOUR NAME

Is your current true full name (first, middle and last name) the same as the name listed on the identity document you selected in step 1? If not, to document your name change, bring documents that connect the name on the identity document you selected to your current true full name (first, middle and last name). Select the documents you will use (this can be more than one if needed to connect the name listed on your identity document to your true full name). An original document or certified copy is required.



### STEP 3: CONFIRM SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Select ONE document you will use that contains your full social security number (SSN). An applicant must present any of the following genuine documents bearing the name of the applicant and their full social security number. (Example: Social Security Card, W-2 form, pay stub with full SSN)



### STEP 4: VERIFY RESIDENCE ADDRESS

To establish Alaska residency, you must present two documents that verify your residence address. The document must list the applicant's first and last name and match the residence address as listed on the driver license or ID card application. One of these residency documents needs to be dated within 90 days. (Example: mortgage bill, deed or title, rental or lease agreement, IRS tax return, home utility bills, or bank statement)

To view the full checklist and see what documentation will be accepted, please visit:

<https://online.dmv.alaska.gov/REALIdChecklist>



## TRAVELING WITH YOUR TRIBAL ID

According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Tribal Identifications are an acceptable form of identification at the security checkpoint today and will continue to be accepted once the enforcement of REAL ID begins. Here is what holders of tribal IDs needed to know:

- The tribal must be federally-recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- The ID must have a photo
- If the ID has an expiration date, it cannot have been expired for more than a year
- If there is no expiration date, there is no restriction beyond #1 and #2.
- If a traveler is using their tribal ID at the TSA security checkpoint and they are told it is not acceptable (this should NOT happen, but just in case), the traveler should ask to speak immediately with a TSA supervisor

**SCHEDULE  
APPOINTMENT  
ONLINE:**





# Patient Experience Team: Our Purpose is to *Meet your Needs*

By Patient Experience Team

Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center strives to provide high quality and compassionate care to the people we serve. The Customer Experience program's goal is for patients and their families to have the best experience possible while feeling their voices are heard and their needs are being met. We look for areas to focus on where we have the opportunity for improvements to be made. Most recently we had the opportunity to focus on making improvements in how we can better serve our deaf and hard of hearing patients.

The Customer Experience program

was contacted by a patient who was facing obstacles when coming in to receive care. In order to learn how we could better serve the patient and other patients facing the same obstacles, our team met with the patient to address and hear the concerns. The patient was able to provide us with personal experiences in order for our team to understand their needs and based on the feedback provided, our team put a plan in place for improvement. We now send a questionnaire to patients requesting information about how best to communicate with those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and

this information is being documented in the patients' health record for staff awareness.

The Customer Experience program strives to make patients' experiences the best possible. We are here to help navigate patients through the healthcare system and address any concerns that come up in receiving care. Please feel free to reach out to our program by calling (907) 451-6682 ext. 1918 or by email: [patientconcerns@tananachiefs.org](mailto:patientconcerns@tananachiefs.org) with any questions or concerns you may have.

To Contact Patient Experience:

**TCC • Patient Experience**

(907) 1-800-478-6822 • (907) 451-6682 ext. 1918 • [patientconcerns@tananachiefs.org](mailto:patientconcerns@tananachiefs.org)

## PAUL ESAU NENANA

Paul Esau was born in 1924 off the Kantishna River on the Toklat River. His parents were John and Lizzy Esau.

During Paul's childhood, Paul went to school at St. Marks Mission in Nenana. Paul laughs as he recalls, "The most I learned there is cutting wood! That's what we do every day you know, [...] Cut wood every day."

Paul was very close to his father, and after he passed away, he learned resiliency and strength from his mother. He recalls, "My Dad, I was his pet. I wanted to go with him, when he went down and paddled down in the canoe. I wanted to go with him." He remembers when he lost him, he says, "No, he left me behind. And that was it." Paul's mother taught them everything she could. He says, "She's the one that taught us everything. She was a strong woman."

"My mom, all those things she taught me like, be nice to the peoples, take care of the elders, you know." Paul kept helping, and learned a lot from the elders.

He offers his advice to the younger generation, "Look after your family. You know, your family and their children, that's the main thing. Talk with them, give them advice, so they can stay away from the liquor and all that. . ." He adds, "Life is good. Life is good! If you take care of yourself."

See Paul's full legacy video at [www.tananachiefs.org/legacy-of-our-elders/](http://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.

LEGACY  
OF OUR  
ELDERS

# THE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference



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## SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE 2022 TCC CALENDAR!



**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT IS OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Go to: [www.tananachiefs.org/2022-tcc-calendar-submissions/](http://www.tananachiefs.org/2022-tcc-calendar-submissions/)  
Fill out the form, upload pictures, and give a caption and you're done!

# Find Your Purpose

Join Our Team:  
[www.tananachiefs.org/careers](http://www.tananachiefs.org/careers)

## Village Vacancies

- Alatna:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner-Itinerant, Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
- 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, Village Public Safety Officer
- Circle:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Family Youth Specialist, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook
- Dot Lake:** Behavioral Health Aide
- Eagle:** Home Care Provider
- Evansville:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Elder Nutrition Cook
- Fort Yukon:** Home Care Provider, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Preschool Lead Teacher
- Galena:** Infant/Toddler Teacher, Nurse Practitioner - Primary Care, Physician Assistant - Primary Care, Service Desk Technician
- Grayling:** Family Visitor, Village Public Safety Officer
- Healy Lake:** Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Village Public Safety Officer
- Holy Cross:** Family Visitor, Home Care Provider, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
- Hughes:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant, Family Visitor
- Huslia:** Preschool Assistant Teacher
- Kaltag:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Tribal Family Youth Specialist
- Koyukuk:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- Manley Hot Springs:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- McGrath:** Preschool Assistant Teacher, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
- Minto:** Behavioral Health Aide
- Nenana:** Infant/Toddler Teacher, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor
- Northway:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Home Care Provider, Village Public Safety Officer
- Nulato:** Home Care Provider, Preschool Assistant Teacher, Substitute Teacher/Assistant Teacher, Village Public Safety Officer
- Old Minto:** Traditional Counselor
- Rampart:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- Ruby:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Substitute Elder Nutrition Cook
- Shageluk:** Family Visitor, Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor
- Stevens Village:** Community Health Aide/Practitioner
- Tetlin:** Behavioral Health Aide, Community Health Aide/Practitioner, Family Visitor, Preschool Lead Teacher, Village Public Safety Officer
- Tok:** Alternate Resource Coordinator, Assistant Crew Boss, Clinical Support Staff/Medical Assistant, Coordinator/Instructor Mid Level Practitioner, Physician Assistant - UTHC, Service Desk Technician, Urgent Care RN Advanced, Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member
- Venetie:** Tribal Administrator - Onsite Supervisor, Village Public Safety Officer

## Region- Wide Vacancies

- Community Health Aide/Practitioner - Itinerant
- Behavioral Health Clinical Associate - Fairbanks
- Tribal Family Youth Specialist

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF JULY 26, 2021