

Vol. 48, No. 01

A REPORT TO THE MEMBER TRIBES OF TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

#### January 2023

# White House Tribal Nations Summit



Last month, Tribal Leaders from throughout the country gathered together in Washington, DC to attend the 2022 White House Tribal Nations Summit hosted by the Department of the Interior. The summit was the second one held by the Biden Administration and the first one held in-person in six years.

Interior Alaska Leadership held a strong presence at the event, with over half of interior tribes represented. The summit provided the opportunity for Tribal leaders to engage with members of the Biden-Harris administration to strengthen nation-to-nation relationships and discuss issues facing Tribal communities.

This year's summit included presentations from President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris, and Secretary Deb Haaland. It also included panel discussions with representatives from the Department of Education, Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, the White House Climate Policy Office, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, and more.

Each day ended with an engagement session, where tribal leaders were able to engage with government officials, ask questions and seek support for issues impacting their communities. TCC leadership spoke on important issues impacting our Tribes including the Salmon decline on the Yukon River, Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, Elder Housing, and health appropriations among other priorities for the TCC region.

Continued on page 3



#### **Mission**

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

Trimble Gilbert/Arctic Village 1st Traditional Chief

> Andy Jimmie/Minto 2nd Traditional Chief

Brian Ridley/Eagle Chief/Chairman

Sharon Hildebrand/Nulato 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

> Lori Baker/Minto Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green/Louden Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski/Nulato Elder Advisor

Alex Hanna/Minto Youth Advisor

### **Chief's Report**

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

First of all, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! 2022 held a lot of exciting things for Tanana Chiefs Conference and the tribal communities that we serve. We opened the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center expansion with new services to meet the growing health needs of our

region, re-vitalized the Reclaiming Our People Initiative, developed a new Community and Infrastructure Development Division, partnered with the Fairbanks Native Association to improve response to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons, delayed the Ambler Road permitting process by ensuring the proper environmental reviews are implemented, and so much more. I look forward to the New Year and all that we will accomplish together.

Last month, TCC's Executive Board of Directors and myself had the opportunity to attend the White House Tribal Nations Conference in Washington, DC. I am grateful that the current administration is prioritizing these important nation-tonation relationships with our Tribes, as this is the first time the summit was held in-person in six years. I was pleased to see so many familiar faces at the event, with Interior Alaska Tribal Leadership having strong representation throughout the summit. I look forward to next year and hope that the Biden Administration continues to have open dialogue with our Tribal leadership.

I, along with Vice-President Sharon Hildebrand and Secretary/Treasurer Charlie Wright, attended the North Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting to provide testimony on the need to reduce chum salmon bycatch. Over the past three years, chum salmon bycatch has increased while our villages have not been allowed to fish. I was happy to see that there were many strong tribal voices from across the State in attendance providing testimony. The Council listened to our concerns and took action to reduce chum salmon bycatch.

As we enter into the New Year, TCC staff are already preparing for our Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting in March. This year will be another big election year with seats open on our Executive Board for the following positions; Upper Tanana representative, Yukon Koyukuk representative and Chief/Chairman. More information about this year's convention will be available at a later date.

> *Mahsi' Choo,* Brian Ridley Chief/Chairman



Call the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100, Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500 or TCC Public Safety at 907-452-8251 ext.3269. Visit <u>www.tananachiefs.org/missing</u> for more information.

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SUMME

# **White House Tribal Nations Summit**

"I am glad that the Biden Administration brought back this event so that we can continue to have meaningful government-to-government consultations," said Chief/Chairman Brian Ridley, "It was amazing to see so many Interior Tribes represented and speaking out on behalf of their communities."



# North Pacific Fishery Management Council Votes to Modify Bycatch Measures

bycatch management measures in the Bering Sea Pollock fishery. The motion reads 'The Council directs the Salmon Bycatch Committee to develop recommendations for potential regulatory and non-regulatory chum salmon bycatch management measures, including a cap. The committee should develop alternative management measures with focus on avoidance of Western Alaska chum salmon.'

This decision is an important step towards the protection of our salmon

this week, the Council unanimously

passed a motion to modify chum salmon

and way of life. The Council's decision was heavily influenced by strong testimonies and tribal presence at the meeting. TCC would like to thank everyone who provided written comments, oral testimony via Zoom/phone and showed up in-person to emphasize how the decline of salmon has impacted our tribal communities. It is important that we continue to show up to these meetings to raise awareness and to demand action to protect these resources that impact our physical, cultural, spiritual and economic well-being.

### Internet Opportunity for TCC GO Participants

Just a friendly reminder that households with TCC GO participants are eligible to be reimbursed for their internet expenses (up to \$300 a month). Did you know that if you are considering utilizing the internet to participate in the TCC GO program, we can reimburse your household of up to \$500 for internet installation costs? If you are thinking of subscribing to Starlink, don't forget about this great opportunity!

For more information: https://www.tananachiefs.org/services/tcc-go/

### If you have any questions, please contact one of the TCC GO Academic Advisors:

- Angela Rutman: angela.rutman@tananachiefs.org or 907-452-8251 ext. 3039
- Purestyn Milk: purestyn.milk@tananachiefs.org or 907-452-8251 ext. 3403





# **January Head Start News**

In December, our program partnered with local village storage to supply 96 enrolled families and staff with Christmas Dinner food boxes! Our goal is to not only let our families and staff know we care about them, but also help with food security while also putting money back into the local economies. Our partnerships with village stores in November allowed us to put over \$7,000 back into the local communities.

#### **Teacher Spotlight**

Please meet Kendra Ekada, our new assistant teacher in Nulato.

#### What made you want to be a teacher?

I've always wanted to be a teacher because our rural villages lack teachers and our kids are suffering from not attending school because of that lack.

### What do you do for fun in the winter?

Play outside with my kids, family rides on the snow machine, we don't like when it's really cold so we stay inside a lot and play together or just hang out.

#### What are your hobbies?

I really like sports, especially baseball and basketball. We enjoy hunting and camping too.

### What are four things you can't live without?

My phone, internet, running water and my family.

There are still spots available in many of our classrooms. If you have a child

under the age of 5 that you'd like to be enrolled please contact Waverly Neal at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3998 for more information.

#### **FY23 School Year sites:**

- Allakaket: Vacant
- Grayling: Vacant
- Holy Cross: Vacant
- Huslia: HS is open and EHS is vacant
- Minto: Vacant
- McGrath HS: Open
- Nenana EHS & HS: Open
- Northway HS: Open
- Nulato HS: Open
- Tanana: Home Visiting Open
- Tetlin: Home Visiting Open
- Tanacross HS: Open
- Tok HS: Open

# TCC Head Start has teamed up with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library!

TCC Head Start has teamed up with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library! Every month enrolled children from the ages of birth to 5 will get a free age appropriate book! Reading together is a wonderful way to build a lifelong love for reading with children and promote family time. If you do not have a local Head Start educator, please call Tanya. She's happy to assist. Please contact Waverly Neal at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822 ext. 3998 for ways to sign up.

# Head Start has positions open in the following villages:

Allakaket, Grayling, Holy Cross, Huslia, Minto, Nenana, Northway, Nulato and Tok.

# There are also positions open in Fairbanks.

- Family Visitor
- Preschool Lead Teacher
- Assistant Teacher
- Substitute Teacher
- Health and Safety Coordinator
- Family Advocate

Please visit our website at <u>www.tananachiefs.org/careers</u> to see what's open in your area or call Kristi Walmsley at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822, ext. 3015.



Tok kiddos having fun



**Little Turkeys in Northway** 



# **Eielson Air Force Base** Micro-Nuclear Reactor

By Eddie Dellamary, *Rural Energy Specialist* 

In September of 2022, The Department of the Air Force, along with the Defense Logistics Energy Agency released a request for proposal for the Micro-Reactor Pilot Program at Eielson Air Force Base (AFB). The Micro-Reactor Pilot Program is designed to provide resilience for Department of Defense (DoD) facilities by building and operating at least one licensed micro-reactor by December 31, 2027.

A Micro-Reactor can be defined as a simple and compact nuclear reactor which is capable of producing between 1-20 megawatts (MW) of electrical and/ or thermal energy. Eielson AFB currently has its own power plant, Eielson Air Force Base Central Heat & Power Plant, which has five units that work to bring the total operating capacity to 25 MW. The proposed Micro-Reactor will have a similar power production capacity as one of the units at Eielson's Power plant, with a few key differences: zero carbon-emission, and micro-reactors are typically much smaller in size (a single 40ft CONEX).

When discussing nuclear energy it is always important to regard public safety and environmental concerns. With this in mind, considerable engineering efforts were made with safety features that require little human oversight or off-site electrical power prevention. The small size of the micro-reactor, contained in a 40-foot CONEX located



#### Figure 1: Micro-Nuclear Reactor, contained in a CONEX

on base adminst five acres of isolated land, uses only five percent of the fuel a typical large nuclear reactor has, with larger fluid inventory. For a worst case scenario, meltdown, the 'danger zone' would be 400 feet from the reactor.

For both geopolitical and energy-resilience reasons it is critical that a back-up energy source, such as Micro-Reactor, be installed at Eielson AFB. The Eielson Micro-Reactor would be a secure, supplemental energy source for resilience measures as well as provide power without additional dependence on fossil fuels.

Currently Eielson AFB uses an

average of 800 tons of coal a day and keeps a 90-days supply on site. A micro-reactor would cut down the amount of coal that is consumed by several tons of coal, depending on the final installed production capacity of the reactor. With a reduction in coal consumption comes a reduced environmental impact and improved resiliency for operations at Eielson AFB.

The micro-reactor program at Eielson AFB is in its infancy, with a vendor yet to be selected, permitting to be done, strict adherence to the many regulations from the Nuclear Regulatory Committee, and many obstacles to overcome.

### Introducing Elizabeth Carrozzino

Family Services and Support Division, along with Workforce Development, would like to introduce Elizabeth Carrozzino as the new Rural Economic Development Coordinator. The Rural Economic Development Coordinator position has recently been reorganized to focus on individual clients that wish to start their own business, or would like technical existence in the endeavor to expand their current business. This could include formulating a business plan, applying for a business license, starting a website, marketing, social media, financial literacy, and more.

Elizabeth, also known as Liz, grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania and received a Bachelor's of Science in Equine

Business Management from Delaware Valley University. In 2018, she came

to Alaska to pursue an internship for the completion of her degree. During that internship, Liz fell in love with the beauty of Alaska and decided to make it her home. This past May, Liz graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks with her Master's in Rural Development. Liz is excited to join the Workforce Development Team and help clients build sustainable incomes that will support them and their families. Liz can be reached at <u>Elizabeth.Carrozzino@tananachiefs.org</u> or by calling (907) 452-8251 ext. 3743.

# Human Trafficking In Alaska

Human trafficking is a troubling issue that often goes unnoticed in our communities. While human trafficking may sound like an issue that only happens in large cities outside of Alaska - the reality is that human trafficking is happening now in our state and in our communities. In a 2017 study, 1 in 4 females at Anchorage's covenant house had been trafficked for sex, and of those youth -42% were Alaska Native. Among homeless youth surveyed in 10 cities throughout the country - Anchorage had the highest prevalence of trafficking. Even here in the Fairbanks area and in our interior villages - we have been hearing about • Withdrawn, depressed, distracted or cases of human trafficking.

The most heartbreaking part is this is only a small glimpse of how large this problem actually is. Trafficking is notably underreported, mainly due to the intense trauma that victims experience, which makes it difficult for them to come forward and ask for help.

With January being National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month – Tanana Chiefs Conference would like to provide important information on human trafficking, how to identify it and how to prevent it.

#### What is Human Trafficking?

Trafficking is the illegal exploitation of a person – whether it be for labor or sex. Victims can be recruited and trafficked in their own villages and hometowns and, sadly, even in their own homes. Traffickers use violence, manipulation, . Jealous, controlling and violent or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims.

Traffickers disproportionately target • at-risk populations, including individuals who have experienced or been exposed to other forms of violence such as child abuse and maltreatment, interpersonal violence and sexual assault, and community and gang violence.

#### Warning Signs that someone may be being trafficked:

- · Physical abuse such as burn marks, . bruises or cuts
- · Unexplained absences from class
- Sexualized behavior
- Overly tired in class
- checked out
- Brags about making or having lots of money
- Less appropriately dressed than before or new expensive clothes, . accessories or shoes
- New tattoo (tattoos are often used by pimps as a way to brand victims. Tattoos of a name, symbol of money or barcode could indicate trafficking)
- Older bovfriend or new friends with a different lifestyle
- Talks about wild parties or invites other students to attend parties
- Shows signs of gang affiliation (gangcolors, notebook doodles of gang symbols, etc.)

#### Traffickers Often Exhibit the **Following Behaviors:**

- Significantly older than female companions

- Promise things that seem too good to be true
- Encourage victims to engage in illegal activities to achieve their goals and dreams
- Buys expensive gifts or owns expensive items
- Is vague about his/her profession
- Pushy or demanding about sex
- Encourages inappropriate sexual behavior
- Makes the victim feel responsible for his/her financial stability. Very open about financial matters.

#### What to do if you suspect someone is being trafficked

- DO NOT INTERVENE - you could make the situation worse for the individual or for yourself.
- Call 911 immediately and report the situation.

#### **RESOURCES:**

- If you are a victim of human trafficking ٠ and need help - contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline : 1-888-373-7888 or text "help" to BeFree (233733)
- FBI Anchorage Field Office at 907-276-4441
- You can also contact the Alaska State Troopers at 907-375-6409
- Learn more at http://fbi.gov/humantrafficking

hief Andrew Isaac **Health** Center

SCAN ME!

#### (H L

The Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center has a new Facebook page

- Important Announcements Meet Our Staff
- Information about Services
- **Health & Wellness Tips** •
- $\bullet$ So Much More!



# Fairbanks Board of Game Advisory Committee

On December 9th, interested tribal citizens and tribal staff met to discuss subsistence issues facing residents of Interior Alaska tribal communities, how to participate in local fish and game advisory committees (ACs), and to help prepare for upcoming Board of Fish (BoF) testimonials. Ben Stevens, Tanana Chiefs Conference's Tribal Resources Stewardship Program Director, led the discussion.

TCC's Tribal Resources Stewardship Program (TRSP) urges anyone interested to attend meetings of your local fish and game advisory committee and consider becoming an official member. Local fish and game advisory committees exist to help bring local perspectives and knowledge of fish and wildlife -- and the habitats upon which they depend-- to both the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Board of Game, as well as the federal Western Interior and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Councils to better inform their decision-making on fishing, hunting, and trapping regulations. The Tribal Resources Stewardship Program encourages Indigenous tribal citizens and their non-Native allies in actively engaging with these systems to increase the influence of Alaska Native peoples' voices in making the decisions that affect Indigenous ways of life.

"The biggest step we can take in ensuring our subsistence rights are not ignored is to Indigenize the boards and the process of proposal review," Ben Stevens asserts. His claim is supported by other participants from across the Interior in this recent meeting who have been serving their local fish and game advisory committees for many years. "Going to these meetings are tools in our toolbox," Cameron Winfrey of Minto championed.

Tommy Kriska, from Koyukuk, spoke on the need for Alaska Native organizations to collect their own quantitative data for the state and federal subsistence agencies, which helps to support subsistence needs for Indigenous populations. "On their side, it's money," he said. "On our side it's livelihood. We want to be at the table to stand up for ourselves in these decisions."

There are currently 84 local fish and game advisory committees in Alaska, with 16 in the Interior. Many of the advisory committees are intended to serve rural tribal communities. Advisory Committees meet at least twice annually, and meetings are utilized to review and discuss fish and wildlife concerns, as well as any regulatory change proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries or the Alaska Board of Game. Longtime board member, Chief Rhonda Pitka, urged participation in Advisory Committees, stating that shifts in representation have been a long time coming, and the subsistence way of life are still trending downward for Alaska and Canadian Indigenous residents.

Advisory Committees consist of elected officials who are tasked with being the voices for the subsistence needs of their regions. Formation of and participation in local fish and Game Advisory committees is strongly encouraged by tribal health organizations, especially at this time as our subsistence lifestyles are under threat from climate change, outside interests, increasing competition with urban Alaskans and Outside sports hunters and fishermen.

If you are interested in doing more to protect our fish, wildlife, and our tribal ways of life, please reach out to the Tribal Resources Stewardship Program at <u>HFTF@tananachiefs.org</u>, or call 907-452-8251 and ask for the Hunting and Fishing Taskforce (HFTF). There are many vacancies on local fish and game advisory committees within the TCC region, and our tribal ways of life need to be represented on these committees. Find out which advisory committee serves your community and attend meetings.

Get involved in Advisory Committee so that you may learn how to help your Elders protect Indigenous ways of life, tribal cultures, and individual and community well-being. Become the next voice for the land, water, fish, and wildlife that our ancestors have stewarded for countless generations. As Tommy stated, "We need to stay together on this as best as we all can."



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# A YEAR IN REVIEW



#### **JANUARY 2022**

TCC distributes fish to families impacted by the salmon crash on the Yukon River. Volunteer efforts successfully distributed approximately 2,800 pounds of salmon to the Fairbanks region's Alaska Native Elders on December 5th, 2021.



#### **FEBRUARY 2022**

A COVID-19 surge causes staffing challenges at TCC due to an increase of employees becoming infected or exposed to COVID-19– many of which were required to self-isolate until they were able to return to the workplace safely.



#### **MARCH 2022**

On March 17th, Brian Ridley was elected by the Full Board of Directors to serve remaining year as Chief/Chairman of TCC. Chief Ridley had been serving as Interim President for TCC after being temporarily appointed in December.



#### APRIL

TCC hosts first Public brought together trib ka Department of La health and human se tities essential to pub with innovative solutio rural Alaskan public sa



#### **AUGUST 2022**

The 38th Tribal Court Conference was held in-person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic started. In partnership with the UAF Interior Aleutians Campus and Tribal Governance Program, the conference is to ensure our Tribes get the most current information, diverse presenters, and opportunities for technical support and assistance through TCC and/or UAF.



#### **SEPTEMBER 2022**

TCC creates new Community and Infrastructure Development Division to focus its sights on consolidating programs run by other divisions across the organization. This will ensure more focus is put on broadband access, housing and transportation needs, and climate change.



#### **OCTOBER 2022**

Tribal Leaders and subsistence fisherman attended the Federal Fisheries Consultation to demand action from the federal and state governments for the devastating salmon decline that has been impacting Tribes on the Yukon River.



#### OCTOBE

TCC proposed six reso board of delegates-t specifically on the cor tion of salmon. All of t ted were passed and support of tribal lead issues that impact all





#### 2022

c Safety Summit. This al leaders, the Alasaw, law enforcement, ervices and other enlic safety to come up ons when dealing with afety issues.



**MAY 2022** 

TCC Leadership met with Secretary Deb Haaland to bring awareness to the Yukon River salmon crisis and proposed solutions for the Tribes and the government to work together on for the salmon and their people.



#### **JUNE 2022**

Andy Jimmie was recognized as Second Traditional Chief of the TCC Region during the Denakkanaaa Elders & Youth conference. TCC's previous Second Traditional Chief, Trimble Gilbert assumed the role of First Traditional Chief after the passing of the First Traditional Chief, Don Honea Sr.



#### **JULY 2022**

TCC celebrated the opening of the CAIHC expansion by holding a Ceremonial blessing. First Traditional Chief Trimble Gilbert and Second Traditional Chief Andy Jimmie were in attendance to say a prayer and perform a blessing over the facility. Afterwards, a ceremonial box filled with soil collected from the tribes of the TCC region was distributed on the grounds to symbolize the foundation or 'roots' of TCC–our Tribes.



#### R 2022

blutions to the AFN full wo of which focused nservation and proteche resolutions submit-TCC is grateful for the lership on the critical of Alaska.



#### **OCTOBER 2022**

TCC hosted a Tribal Advisory Council (TAC) meeting to discuss the revitalization of the Reclaiming Our People Initiative, which focuses on the prevention of substance abuse and the improvement of the overall health and wellness of our people. TCC brought together various TCC programs and tribal members to discuss the next steps for the initiative and to develop a path forward.



#### **OCTOBER 2022**

At the direction of the TCC Full Board of Directors and Executive Board, TCC is exploring ways to incorporate Alaska Native values and beliefs into our services in order to promote health, heal past traumas, prevent diseases, reduce pain, and enhance emotional wellness. TCC hosted its first Traditional Healing Gathering that brought together tribal members from throughout the region to participate in traditional healing activities.



#### **NOVEMBER 2022**

TCC hosted a Special Full Board of Directors meeting that focused on several high-level topics that included fishing, water and sewer, housing, and Resolution 2022-22. This resolution requested TCC staff to research other Alaskan Native organization and present the data found and proposed bylaw change at the special meeting. A motion was made to table the discussion and the Full Board voted in favor of the motion.

# **Opioid Overdose** Prevention

#### Brought to you by the Division of Wellness and Prevention

Some people may have experience with coming to the brink of an overdose. For them and their families it was most likely a very scary time in their lives when things got out of control. But as we learn more about opioids, we have learned that we can prevent an opioid overdose. The important thing is to be educated and learn the steps about what you can do.

#### Know what opioids do

These drugs block pain signals in the brain and they are powerfully good at their job. They can flood your brain and body with good feelings. An opioid addiction happens when someone wants to feel that feeling again and will abuse opioids to try to get to that same feeling they had before.

# Understand why people might take too much of their prescription medicine

Some might accidentally take more than they were supposed to by accident or might have taken more than prescribed to try to take the pain away.

A person using opioids for a while may develop a tolerance causing them to need more of the opioid to get same effect.

# Learn about the risks of using an opioid

Being educated on the risks and dangers of opioids is important. While using opioids, someone may develop a dependency, increased tolerance, or develop an opioid use disorder.

Risks significantly increase for anyone who has used opioids for a long time, prescribed a high dosage, prescribed multiple different medications, and/or use alcohol and drugs.

### Recognize the signs and symptoms of opioid misuse

If a person has taken too much of an opioid, he or she might experience abnormal sleepiness, shallow breathing, slurred speech or confusion, clamminess, or a slowed heart rate.

If someone displays signs of misuse or overdose call for emergency help immediately.

### Recognize the signs and symptoms of an accidental opioid overdose

#### The signs of an overdose include:

- Face is clammy to touch and has lost color. Has trouble speaking. Center part of eye is very small, sometimes called "pinpoint pupils."
- Body is limp. Fingernails and lips turning blue or purple.
- Appears to be in a deep sleep and cannot be woken. Will not respond to voice commands or touch.

- Very slow or irregular breathing or no breathing at all.
- Slow heartbeat and/or low blood pressure.

If you suspect someone has misused or accidentally overdosed on opioids, call 911 or your local emergency contact immediately.

#### If you have Naloxone on hand:

Administer Naloxone nasal spray immediately.

Naloxone is used to reverse the life-threatening effects of opioid overdose. Naloxone does not require a prescription and can be administered by anyone in the case of an opioid overdose emergency.

#### **Requesting Naloxone**

If you live in the TCC region, contact the Division of Wellness & Prevention via phone or email to request a FREE Naloxone Kit OR simply complete the TCC Naloxone Request Form Survey online. Staff from Wellness and Prevention will make contact to fulfill your request.

The TCC Division of Wellness and Prevention Naloxone Request Form Survey can also be accessed by scanning this QR code.



For more information on Substance Abuse Prevention Contact: Call us: 1-800-478-6822 • 907-452-8251 ext. 3581 Email us: Prevention@tananachiefs.org

#### Traveling to Alaska Native Medical Center and need assistance?

The ANMC-TCC Patient Advocates work closely with the medical teams at the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) to ensure TCC patients receive clear communication about their care, excellent patient experiences, safe discharge plans, and access to support if concerns arise while at ANMC.

Please reach out to our ANMC-TCC Patient Advocates if needed.



Lucy Frank Lead ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate 907-378-8002



April Johnson ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate 907-687-9193



# The Amazing Five-Letter Word: S-L-E-E-P

By Karen Kallen-Brown, Children's Services Clinician

What's so amazing about sleep? It is critical for preventing or managing attention issues, behavior issues, poor mental health, injuries, obesity and type 2 diabetes just for starters! Having COVID-19 or worrying about it can cause sleep problems. Grief can also interfere with sleep and failing to address the sleep problems can lead to prolonged grief disorder. Early intervention helps avoid longterm sleep problems. Let your primary health care provider know ASAP if you are having trouble sleeping, so you can get help right away. The sooner you get help, the easier it is to find relief!

Way back when, before electricity and high-tech distractions, nature forced us to slow down and sleep because we just couldn't do much in the darkness or dim light. People gathered together and told stories or made music and this helped to build strong memory skills. It also helped to settle down our bodies to fall into restful and restorative sleep. That's when we wake up naturally without interruptions because of physical needs or distractions. (If physical needs wake you up, let your health care provider know!)

A restful and restorative sleep allows our bodies to go through several different stages of sleep. Each stage has a different purpose and has a huge positive impact on emotional and mental health. For example, the REM (rapid eye movement) stage of sleep allows us to process positive emotions and consolidate it so we remember the good things. Without it, we are more likely

to focus on the negative experiences • Toddlers (1-3 years) need 12-14 which will increase our risks for suicidal thoughts and actions. Improved sleep has been shown to reduce symptoms of depression. Sleep improves symptoms of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), Autism Spectrum Disorder, Anxiety Disorders and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Poor sleep can bring

on manic or depressive epi- . sodes or make them worse for people diagnosed with bipolar disorder.

Did you know that new learning from the day's experiences is sorted and consolidated so the important information is stored in the brain where it can be accessed? Children, teens, and adults who do not get

enough restful sleep have trouble learning so they repeat mistakes and struggle in school, at work, or functioning well at home and in the community.

While medical treatment and behavioral therapy can be helpful and is necessary in some cases, many conditions and learning issues can be significantly improved just by creating healthy sleep habits (known as sleep hygiene.) Knowing how much sleep is needed at different developmental stages of life will help physical and mental wellness and well-being.

#### Here's the scoop (based on the average need for restful sleep in a 24-hour day):

- Newborns (up to 2 months old) need between 10.5 and 18 hours a day.
- Infants (3-11 months) need 10-14 hours a day.

- hours a day.
- Preschoolers (3-5 years) need 11-13 hours a day.
- School-age children (5-12 years) need 10-12 hours a day.
- Adolescents (12-18 years) need 8-10 hours a day.
- Adults (18 years and up) need 7.5-8.5 hours a day.

Right now, in the United States, 60% of middle-schoolers and 70% of high schoolers don't get enough sleep. It's no wonder that we're seeing more school failure and more mental health and behavioral health issues.

Creating a healthy sleep habit, like changing any habit, takes knowledge, commitment to change, and being aware of the choice to take actions that are consistent with your intention. Set a regular bedtime and wake-up time and try to stick with it, even on the weekends. (Variations of more than one hour can cause disruptions in kids in their learning and behavior for the first half of the school week.) Use the sleep area only for sleep and keep it quiet and at a comfortable temperature. Remove electronic devices from the sleep area and stop all screen time one hour before bed to allow the eyes to recover from stimulation. Avoid large meals before bedtime and avoid caffeine in the afternoon and evening.

Getting into a healthy sleep routine will help a lot and you'll feel better once you get used to it. Most people can develop a new habit within 3-4 weeks if they stick to it consistently. Good luck and welcome on the journey to healthy sleep and wellness!

# **Respiratory Syncytial Virus** (RSV)

# What Is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)?

Respiratory syncytial (sin-SISH-ul) virus (RSV) is a major cause of respiratory illness in children. The virus usually causes a common cold. But sometimes it infects the lungs and breathing passages and can cause breathing problems in infants and young children.

# What Are the Signs & Symptoms of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)?

Kids with RSV might have cold symptoms, such as:

- a stuffy or runny nose
- · sore throat
- mild headache
- cough
- fever
- · not eating or drinking well
- · a general ill feeling

Sometimes, an RSV infection can lead to:

- wheezing (a whistling sound heard with breathing)
- bronchiolitis or pneumonia, especially in premature babies; infants younger than 1 year old; and kids with diseases that affect the lungs, heart, or immune system (such as asthma)
- · dehydration

#### Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV): When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call your health care provider if your child:

- develops a fever after having a cold or has a high fever
- has a cough or other symptoms that get worse

- · is wheezing
- has labored or rapid breathing
- shows signs of dehydration, such as fewer wet diapers than usual
- Also call if your infant is very cranky, or refuses to breastfeed or bottle-feed.
- Get medical help right away if your child:
- is struggling to catch their breath
- is very drowsy
- has lips or fingernails that look blue

#### Is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Contagious?

Respiratory syncytial virus is highly contagious. It spreads through droplets containing the virus when someone coughs or sneezes. It also can live on surfaces (like counters or doorknobs) and on hands and clothing. So people can get it if they touch something that's contaminated.

RSV can spread quickly through schools and childcare centers. Babies often get it when older kids carry the virus home from school and pass it to them. Almost all kids have had RSV at least once by the time they're 2 years old.

RSV infections are most common from fall through spring. But since the COVID-19 pandemic started, they've also happened during the summer. Respiratory illnesses caused by RSV — such as bronchiolitis or pneumonia — usually last about a week, but some symptoms, such as a cough, can last several weeks.

# How Is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Diagnosed?

Health care providers usually diagnose a respiratory virus by taking a medical history and doing an exam. In many kids, they don't need to distinguish RSV from a common cold.

But if a child has other health conditions or more serious symptoms, doctors might want to make a specific RSV diagnosis. In that case, the virus is identified by testing nasal fluids. The sample is collected either with a cotton swab or by suction through a bulb syringe.

# How Is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Treated?

Most cases of respiratory syncytial virus are mild and don't need medical treatment. Antibiotics aren't used because RSV is a virus — antibiotics work only against bacteria.

RSV infection can be more serious in babies and toddlers, though. Some

- might need treatment in a
- hospital where they can be
  watched closely and get supportive treatment for any breathing problems or dehydration.
- Home Care

At home:

- Make your child as comfortable as possible.
- Allow time for recovery.
- Provide plenty of fluids. Babies may not feel like drinking, so offer fluids in small amounts often.

Avoid hot-water and steam humidifiers, which can be hazardous and can scald skin. If you use a cool-mist

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humidifier, clean it daily to prevent mold and bacteria growth.

If your child is too young to blow their own nose, use saline (saltwater) nose spray or drops and a nasal aspirator (or bulb syringe) to remove sticky nasal fluids. Clearing a baby's nose before offering fluids can make it easier for respiratory disease, high-risk infants them to drink.

Treat discomfort from a fever using a non-aspirin fever medicine like acetaminophen or, if your child is older than 6 months, ibuprofen. Do not give aspirin to children who have a viral illness. Such use is linked to Reve syndrome, which can be life-threatening. Do not use over-the-counter cold medicines, which can be dangerous for young children.

#### **Can Respiratory Syncytial Virus** (RSV) Prevented?

Because RSV can spread easily by touching infected people or surfaces, washing hands well and often can help stop it. Wash your hands

after being around someone who has cold symptoms. School-age kids who have a cold should keep away from younger siblings — especially babies — until their symptoms clear up.

To prevent serious RSV-related can get a monthly injection of a medicine with RSV antibodies during peak RSV season (usually fall to spring in the U.S.). The protection it gives doesn't last long, though. So these babies need injections each RSV season until they're no longer at high risk for severe RSV infection. Ask your health care provider if your child is considered high-risk.

Currently, there's no vaccine to prevent RSV. But there are vaccines that prevent respiratory viruses in children that can cause similar symptoms to RSV. It is strongly recommended that all children 6 months and older get the yearly flu vaccine and a COVID-19 vaccine.

# **Healthcare From**

For your next appointment at the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, request a video telehealth appointment and meet with your provider from the comfort of your own couch!

Call us today to schedule at 907-451-6682, option 1.



# Advocate for Our Way of Life!

There are several important upcoming meetings where tribal members will have the opportunity to advocate for our way of life and the need to protect our salmon.

#### **Tribal Participation in the Board of Fish**

January 11th-13th, 2023 Anchorage, AK - Marriott Anchoraage Downtown Learn More: www.uaf.edu/tribal

#### Alaska Board of Fisheries - Arctic/Yukon/ **Kuskokwim Finfish**

January 14th-18th, 2023 Anchorage, AK - Egan Civic & Convention Comment due date: December 30, 2022 Learn more: https://bit.ly/3EB77Jl

#### Alaska Board of Fisheries – AK Peninsula/

**Aleutians (Area M)** February 20th -25th , 2023 Anchorage, AK - Dena'ina Center Comment due date: February 3, 2023 Learn more: https://bit.ly/3GvjCYG

#### **Alaska Board of Fisheries Statewide Finfish & Supplemental Issues** March 10th-13th, 2023

Anchorage, AK - Egan Civic & Convention Comment due date: February 23, 2023 Learn more: https://bit.ly/3tYiS7b

#### **Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

March 1st -2nd, 2023 Arctic Village, AK, Fairbanks, AK alternate location Learn More: https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions/ei

#### Western Interior Regional Advisory **Council Meeting**

April 4th-5th, 2023 Aniak, AK, Galena, AK alternate location Learn More: https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions/wi

#### **Questions?** Contact:

Ben Stevens at benjamin.stevens@tananachiefs.org Janessa Newman at janessa.newman@tananachiefs.org

### **Election Criteria: 2023 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting**

#### SUBREGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

#### TCC EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Subregional Positions:** 

Upper Tanana Subregion ...... 3 Year Term (2023-2026) Currently Herbert Demit, Tanacross

Yukon Koyukuk Subregion ...... 3 Year Term (2023-2026) Currently Charlie Green, Louden

#### Eligibility Criteria:

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

#### **TCC ADVISORY BOARDS**

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

#### **TCC Regional Health Advisory Board**

Currently Patricia Salmon, Chalkyitsik

#### **TCC Education Council**

Currently Phyllis Erhart, Tanana

#### Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

- Currently VACANT
- Currently VACANT
- Upper Tanana Subregion...... 3 year term (2023-2026) Currently Gerald Albert, Northway

Lower Yukon Subregion...... 3 year term (2021-2024) **Currently VACANT** 

#### FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

#### **AFN Village Representative**

.....One year term (2023-2024) 1 Seat ..... Currently Julie Roberts-Hyslop, Tanana

#### IRHA Board of Commissioners

Currently Fred Bifelt, Huslia

Eligibility Criteria:

\* Must be eligible to serve on TCC Board of Directors

 Employees of TCC or IRHA are not eligible to serve as IRHA Commsioners (Article 7, Section7)

#### FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

#### **Officer Positions**

Currently Brian Ridley, Eagle

Eligibility Criteria:

- Officers must be Alaska Native members of a member village of the corporation and eligible to be selected as a Director of a member village. (Article 5, Section 1)
- Must successfully pass the ICPA and (DHSS) Alaska Barrier Crimes Act Background check. (See also Executive Board Policy 50-5003). Executive and Health board candidates must turn in a completed and correct background check application to Heather Rogers in Human Resources by February 13th to guarantee background checks will be completed by March 2nd. Individuals contemplating running for a board position should turn in a background check application immediately to ensure the ability to make corrections to mistakes in the lengthy application. All background check applications will be confidential and only Human Resources will have access to the application and the names of individuals. Those individuals that do not submit complete paperwork or fail to pass a background check will not be eligible candidates for the TCC President/Chairman, Executive Board or Health Board positions.
- 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. All candidates must take and pass a drug test prior to their respective spring 2023 Subregional Advisory Board Meeting, according to this policy in order to serve their term if elected

#### 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 2, 2023 and 5:00 PM-March 3, 2023.

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 3, 2023 to:

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

2023 TCC Full Board elections process follows the TCC Elections Rules; the elections rules are posted on the TCC website at www.tananachiefs.org under the 2023 TCC Annual Convention information and is also enclosed with the First and Official Call to Convention mailed to TCC member tribes. A copy of the elections rules can be requested by contacting Robin Brown, General Counsel.

#### Important Dates for the 2023 TCC Elections

#### Submit between now and February 13th:

The last day TCC is able to guarantee a background check will be completed in time for the required 10 day announcement of candidates before the meeting.

#### February 2nd at 8:00am

The open period in which a candidate may declare written candidacy begins. Please confirm receipt of your letter of intent.

#### March 3rd at 5:00pm:

The open period in which a candidate may declare candidacy ends. Candidates must declare their candidacy in writing. TCC must provide a list of eligible candidates to member tribes.

#### March 16th:

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

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

#### **ICPA BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION:**

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

The TCC Executive Board has made the commitment to both comply with current laws, Board policies and advocate for reasonable changes in background check requirements. As part of compliance, TCC Executive Board and Health Board candidates must submit their complete background check application which includes fingerprints **by February 13th** 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.

#### 2023 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 2023 Full Board of Director's roll call.

r	LETTER OF INTENT Tanana Chiefs Conference ATTN: Norma Dahl, Board Secretary 122 First Ave, Suite 600 Fairbanks, AK 99701   Fax (907) 459-388 1-800-478-6822 ext.3118	4 Tanana Chiefs Conference	
DATE (Must be between 8 a.m. February 2, 2023 and 5	p.m. March 3, 2023).		
l,ot	f	_ declare my intent to run for the Tanana Chiefs Conference	
(Name)	(Village/Enrolled to)		
(Insert seat you intend to run as a candidate for. Examp or /ATC)	le: President & Chief/Chairman, Subregiona	I Executive Board, TCC Health Board, TCC Education Council	
Signature	City, State, Zip Co	de	
Print Name	Phone Number		
Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, 25 USC sec. 3207 provides that each tribal organization that receives funds under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act shall not employ individuals that have committed certain crimes when the position involves regular or foreseeable contact with Indian children. The TCC Executive Board has reviewed and passed procedures to implement the ICPA background checks and the Board requires all Executive Board of Directors, Health Board of Directors and TCC employees to pass ICPA background checks and the Alaska Barrier Crime Act, when applicable. Candidates must fill-out a background check application. The background check application can be obtained from Heather Rogers, Human Resources Director at ext. 3095, and is due by February 13th, 2023 to allow for processing before the election. Only those candidates that pass the background check will be official candidates for the 2023 Full Board of Directors' elections. <b>TCC recommends that you confirm the receipt of your Letter of Intent with the TCC Board Secretary prior to 5:00 P.M. March 3, 2023</b> .			

#### **The Council Newsletter**

122 First Avenue, Suite 600 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424 communications\_dept@tananachiefs.org www.tananachiefs.org

> lanana Chiefs Conference

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# **Find Your Purpose**

Join our Team at Tanana Chiefs Conference www.tananachiefs.org/careers

#### **New Vacancies**

Fairbanks	Administrative Support- Itinerant CHA/P
GASH Region	AKT2CC Crew Boss
GASH Region	AKT2CC FFT2 Crew Member
GASH Region	AKT2CC Squad Boss
•	Assistant Crew Boss
Tok Forestry	-
Fairbanks	Biomedical Equipment Support Director
Fairbanks	Cancer Care & Infusions Nurse Manager
Fairbanks	Certified Medical Assistant
Fairbanks	Certified Nurse Midwife
Fairbanks	Education and Outreach Specialist
Hughes	Elder Nutrition Cook
Nulato	Elder Nutrition Cook
Tok Head Start	Family Advocate
Fairbanks	Healthcare Facilities Maintenance Technician
Fairbanks	Learning and Development Coordinator
Fairbanks	Licensed Optician
Fairbanks	Medical Division Practice Manager
Fairbanks	Nurse Practitioner - Urgent Care PRN
Fairbanks	Physical Therapist- PRN
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Float
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant - Urgent Care
Fairbanks	Physician Assistant- Hematology/Oncology
Tok Head Start	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Fairbanks	Residential Care Coordinator I
Tok Forestry	Squad Boss
Fairbanks	Staff Dentist
Fairbanks	Tribal Government and Justice Division Deputy Director
Evansville	Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
Arctic Village	Village Public Safety Officer
_ •	
Beaver	Village Public Safety Officer
Chalkyitsik	Village Public Safety Officer
Grayling	Village Public Safety Officer
Healy Lake	Village Public Safety Officer
Holy Cross	Village Public Safety Officer
Hughes	Village Public Safety Officer
Kaltag	Village Public Safety Officer
Koyukuk	Village Public Safety Officer
Nikolai	Village Public Safety Officer
	Village Public Safety Officer
Northway	
Rampart	Village Public Safety Officer
Ruby	Village Public Safety Officer
Shageluk	Village Public Safety Officer
Stevens Village	Village Public Safety Officer
Tetlin	Village Public Safety Officer
Venetie	Village Public Safety Officer
Fairbanks	Village Public Safety Officer-Regional Rover
Tok Forestry	Wild Land Firefighter Type II Crew Member

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Convention

The 2023 TCC Annual Convention will take place March 13th-16th, 2023 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks.

Stay Tuned For More information!

### Did You Get Your ALASKA REAL ID CARD? Deadline has been extended to May 7, 2025



Holders of compliant Alaska licenses and ID cards will be able to use them as identification to access federal buildings, including military installations, and board commercial, domestic flights\* without additional documentation.

For more information on REAL ID, visit www.dhs.gov/real-id

