

Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons Rally



By Taryn Calhoun, Public Relations Specialist

January 26th marked the first Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Rally of 2023 in Fairbanks; it is the second rally held jointly by Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and Fairbanks Native Association (FNA).

Brittany Madros, TCC's Tribal Government and Justice Division Director, and Shirley Lee, FNA's Strategic Development Director, led the rally. Law enforcement from Fairbanks Police Department and the Alaska State Troopers joined representatives from the Fairbanks District Attorney's office in attendance.

Family members of Frank Minano, Debbie Nictune, Doren Sanford, Willis Derendoff, and Meleah Peter spoke about the cases of their loved ones and told stories of their characters and personalities. The tone was one of loving accountability. "This is where we get our strength," said Roy Nictune of the MMIP rallies that have been re-kindled in Fairbanks since 2020. Roy is a relative of Debbie Nictune, who has been missing since August 18th, 2020.

Doren Sanford's 100-year-old grandmother, Isabelle John, was there; Doren's mother Liz Webb, shared during the rally that her and her grandmother

have attended every rally and appreciate everyone who helps make them happen. During the rally, the audience viewed a video of Frank Minano's loved ones recounting Frank's good nature, willingness to help others, and love of the simple life. Doris Derendoff, Willis Derendoff's sister, disclosed that their father passed away last year, and hadn't given up hope of finding his son. "We just want to bring Willis home for a memorial potlatch," she pleaded. The family of Meleah Peter gathered at the podium to discuss the suspicious circumstances surrounding the 19-year-old's death in June of 2022.

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TCC HONORING POTLATCH
March 16 • 6:00 pm
Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall



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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,

This month, Tanana Chiefs Conference's Annual Convention and Full Board of Directors Meeting will be fully open to the public for the first time since before the pandemic. I look forward to seeing everyone in-person again, having meaningful discussions, and continuing forward as we have in the past. We will have a lot of great agenda items, presentations and activities throughout the week that you can learn more about on page 10 of this newsletter.

Last month, I visited several communities throughout our region including Koyukuk, Stevens Village and Chalkyitsik. I always look forward to visiting our rural villages, meeting with tribal leaders and tribal members to learn about the critical needs in their community, the great things they are doing to help their village, and what TCC can do to support them. I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to the communities of Koyukuk, Stevens Village and Chalkyitsik for being so accommodating to our staff and myself. I'm looking forward to spending more time out in our rural communities.

In February, surveyors from the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) spent three days in Fairbanks, where they assessed our organizations commitment to providing safe, high-quality services to our patients. While we will not hear their official determination for another month, the surveyors emphasized how impressed they were with our health care system and how we have been able to accomplish this despite the many challenges we face. I would like to thank all of our staff throughout TCC who put a great deal of effort toward preparing for the surveyors visit and who continue to value and prioritize our patients and the services we provide.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our Full Board of Directors for electing me to serve as your Chief/Chairman for the past year. Our organization has faced many challenges over the past few years and I am humbled that the Board chose me to carry our organization through times of uncertainty. Growing up in Eagle, I understand the hardships that our villages face and as an employee of TCC for the past 14 years, I see how our organization can assist and support our Tribes. With my position being up for election this March, I want to assure everyone that no matter the outcome, my heart is always with our Native people and I will continue to work towards the betterment of our Tribal communities.

Mahsi' Choo,
Brian Ridley
Chief/Chairman

TCC Donates to Alaska Dog Mushers Association

On behalf of the Alaska Dog Mushers Association and the Open North American Championships, Jennifer Probert-Erhart accepted a \$10,000 donation from Tanana Chiefs Conference. TCC is proud to sponsor this year's race!

Learn more about the Alaska Dog Mushers Association here:

<https://alaskadogmushers.com/open-north-american-championships/>



Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons Rally

Continued from front page

“Her death has not been ruled a murder,” her mother, Arlene Peter, said, “But her body told a different story.” Meleah was the youngest of 8 and wanted to attend fashion design school. Each of these families have many questions and continues to hold onto hope that those that have information will come forward.

“Confusion and unanswered questions cannot be filed away when a case goes cold,” said Shirley Lee at the end of the rally, “Family grief cannot be held in suspense.”

Fairbanks Police Chief Ron Dupee echoed the role of the community in solving the cases of our missing and murdered. “There’s information that we need to close out these cases,” he said, “These cases must be worked as a community to solve them.”

Alaska State Trooper Detachment Commander Eric Spitzer disclosed that there would be an arrest in at least one case in February of this year. Law enforcement and representatives from

the Fairbanks District Attorney’s office stayed after the rally to meet with family members.

TCC and FNA recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that binds together future leaders of the sister organizations in the mission to get answers in these cases, bring closure to the families, and continue to pursue relationships between tribal leadership and local law enforcement.



MISSING PERSONS

If you or someone you know has any information on the whereabouts of these individuals - please come forward!



Lorraine Ginnis



Willis Derendoff



Doren Sanford



Debbie Nictune



Frank Minano

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 www.tananachiefs.org/missing for more information.

SUBMIT TIPS ANONYMOUSLY:

Text AKTIPS followed by your tip to 84711 or visit <https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips>



Quannah Chasinghorse

2023 TCC Convention Keynote Speaker



Quannah ChasingHorse (she/her) is a Han Gwich'in and Sicangu/Oglala Lakota land protector, climate justice activist, and fashion model from Eagle Village, Alaska and the tribes of South Dakota. Born on the Navajo Nation, she is the daughter of Jody Potts-Joseph and the granddaughter of Mike and Adeline Potts.

As a young girl, Quannah lived on Navajo homelands as her mother finished college, and then Mongolia, before returning to her maternal homelands in Alaska. She was raised hunting, fishing, and dog mushing, living a subsistence lifestyle with her mother and two brothers. Quannah's deep connection to her homelands and her people's way of life is her grounding and guiding force as a land protector and climate justice activist.



Signing with IMG Models has exponentially increased her platform to uplift Indigenous peoples' representation, beauty, voices, stories, and ways of life on a global stage through fashion and media. Quannah has worked with the top global fashion houses and has graced the covers of Vogue Mexico, V Magazine, Elle, Porter Magazine, National Geographic and Allure's annual Best of Beauty issue. She has appeared in international editions of Harper's Bazaar and Vogue, and twice has attended the Met Gala.

In June 2022, Quannah debuted "Walking Two Worlds" a short documentary at TriBeCa Film Festival. The short tells Quannah and her mother Jody's stories, as they take a stand to defend their sacred homelands and way of life while breaking barriers in Indigenous

representation. "Walking Two Worlds" won best documentary short at the Santa Monica Film Festival.

Quannah is the recipient of several awards including Teen Vogue's Top 21 under 21, Models Dot's Breakout Star of the Year (Industry Vote and Readers Choice) 2021, and Social Mover of the Year (Industry Vote) 2022, and Runner Up (Industry Vote) 2021. Quannah is on the 2022 Forbes 30 under 30 list, was inducted into the Business of Fashion Global Class of 2022 in Paris, and was nominated Model of the Year by British Fashion Awards 2022.

Through all of Quannah's accomplishments and journeys her most important work is upholding and uplifting her Indigenous values, remaining true to herself, her people, and her homelands. Quannah stays grounded by making time to connect with her family, her people, her homelands, and with her indigenous colleagues and allies engaged in fashion and activism.



**DOCUMENTARY
PREMIERE**



March 14 • 6:00 pm
Westmark Hotel Gold Room

Enjoy dinner and watch an exclusive screening of the **Walking Two Worlds Documentary** followed by a panel featuring Quannah Chasinghorse, Jody Potts, Princess Daazhrai Johnson and Keri Oberly.

March Head Start News

Each year Head Start sends out a Community Assessment. This packet is sent to all TCC communities to determine the strengths of communities, how many children are in need for receiving services, what kind of services are available to children and families, as well as community challenges. It is very important to the program to receive these back to help determine the locations and types of services provided. These were sent by mail and email. If you have received one and need help completing the form, please contact Kristi Walmsley at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822, ext. 3015

Late February and early March saw Fairbanks staff travelling to our different sites to conduct site visits, safety checks, as well as spent time with our students, parents, and teachers and offer them our support and help.

On January 21st Head Start held the first in person Policy Council trainings in three years. Thank you to all our Policy Council members for volunteering your time to help Head Start succeed.

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: Home Visiting 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 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 and Huslia we have Family Visitor positions available. In Grayling and Nenana we have both Preschool Lead Teacher and Preschool Assistant Teacher positions available. In Nenana we have Infant/Toddler Teacher positions as well as an Early Head Start Cook position available. In Nenana and Nulato we have Substitute Teacher positions available. Please visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/careers to see what's open in your area or call Kristi Walmsley at 907-452-8251 or 800-478-6822, ext. 3015.



Family Fun Night in Nulato



Family Fun Night in Tok



Huslia Kids making people for class



Playdough fun in Northway

SNAP Benefit Delays

The Division of Public Assistance (DPA) is the state agency that runs the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which provides food stamps to people who are low-income.

During the pandemic, everyone on SNAP was receiving benefits and did not have to provide recertification information. However, when the emergency assistance from the pandemic ended, DPA was required to restart the recertification process.

Currently, the State of Alaska is experiencing a SNAP crisis due to extremely long delays as DPA takes well over the 30 days required to recertify these applications.

Therefore, Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) is trying to assist Alaskans who are experiencing this extreme delay in getting their SNAP benefits. The first step is to call (907) 452-5181 and apply over the phone to see if ALSC can assist you. You may

have to leave a voicemail and please clearly state your name and a good contact number. Once your application is accepted and you become an ALSC client, we can usually get a decision from DPA on your SNAP benefits within two weeks.

If you are a beneficiary, Tanana Chiefs Conference can help with the application process. Please contact Julie Settle at 907-452-8251 ext. 3390 or by email at Julie.settle@tananachiefs.org.

Dental Waitlist: Update

The Dental waitlist is a common question we get in the Dental Department. What is it and how does it work? Why do we even have the waitlist? We'd like to take a few moments to share the importance of the waitlist and outline how it works.

The waitlist serves two significant purposes. First, it serves as our recall exam list, reminding us of when patients are due for their follow-up exam. Each patient's recall timeframe is unique to them and based on a number of factors, but most often our patients will have a two-year recall. Patients with diabetes, children, and certain other unique circumstances may be given a one-year recall.

The second role of the waitlist is it helps us to be fair and consistent when we make exam appointments. We want to make sure that those patients waiting for the longest are the next ones contacted for an appointment. When making appointments, Dental staff call patients from the waitlist in the order they were put on. If we are unable to reach someone, we will leave a message and try again before moving down the list. Don't worry though, if we miss you and you call us back later, you're still eligible for an appointment and will be given one at that time.

If your exam is current, meaning you had one in the last two years, then you can schedule appointments for all the routine care you need completed.

Once all of your planned treatment is complete, you must ask to have your name added back to the exam waitlist. Not everyone necessarily wants to be added back to the list and so we ask that patients interested in that, request to be added. If you forgot to ask, just reach out to the Dental Front Desk and we will get you added. Whether you have a current exam or not, at any time you have a dental concern or urgent need, our Dental Urgent Care Clinic is available for same-day appointments.

The process of the exam waitlist worked very well under normal circumstances. When a patient's exam and all their work was completed, then they were added back to the waitlist. Usually, treatment was completed in 1-3 months. The patient was then back on the waitlist and when they were due for their next exam in two years, they were contacted for an appointment with minimal to no wait. COVID-19 caused a significant disruption in this system as normal appointments were not completed for almost a year and then the volume was half what it was before. Catching up will be a slow process and take significant effort and patience, but progress is being made.

Prior to the start of the pandemic, one provider worked with multiple staff at the same time which allowed them to see more patients. Due to staffing shortages related to the pandemic, for the past two years, we've operated with reduced staff which meant, the number

of patients we can see in the exam clinic is also reduced. We're happy to announce that with the recent hiring of additional dental assistant staff, for the first time in two years, we're able to return to our pre-COVID-19 levels of exam appointments. This improvement is a huge step forward in meeting the needs of our patients waiting for exams.

On the staffing front, we've hired three providers and ten assistants since July 2022 and our recruitment efforts are continuing. We're also currently sponsoring three Dental Health Aide Therapy students for the two-year program based out of Anchorage. These students will graduate in 2023 and 2024 respectively and will assist us in meeting the needs of our patients across the region.

We are grateful for the trust you put in us and we want you to know that our first priority is serving you, our patients with the highest level of care. These past couple of years have been difficult and it will take time for these changes to work through the system and make an impact for each of you. We are committed to seeing the waitlist for services reduced and are working tirelessly to accomplish that. We thank you for your continued trust and patience. If you have any questions about your status on the Dental exam waitlist or would like to have your name added to the list, please contact the Dental Front Desk at 907-451-6682 ext. 3200.

Announcing New Competitive Scholarships!

If you are planning to get a degree in Education or you are enrolling in an aviation related program, we encourage you to apply for the new TCC Competitive Scholarship. Funding will begin in the Fall 2023 semester.

These scholarships assist in raising the number of Native education professionals in the interior of Alaska and the

number of professional pilots and others in aviation related careers. Individuals with these degrees are much-needed in Alaska, and are a priority for the TCC region tribes.

This is a competitive based scholarship for tribally enrolled Alaska Natives that reside in one of the 42 Tanana Chiefs Conference communities. If chosen, recipients may receive up to

a total of \$15,000 for the academic year — up to \$7,500 per semester (for up to 5 years for Educators).

One applicant from the Education field and one from the aviation field will be selected.

**The deadline to apply is
April 30, 2023.**

January 22-25, 2023 Update: **Juneau Reentry Fly-In, Advocacy Training, Meetings, and Reentry Simulation**



In January, reentry advocates from around Alaska participated in a four-day Juneau Reentry Fly-In that educated policymakers about the value of reentry programs, services, and supports to improve the lives of people returning to their communities after incarceration,

and reduce the likelihood of future criminal behavior (recidivism). Tanana Chiefs Conference Reentry Program Manager, Bobby Dorton was one of the advocates in attendance.

Fly-in activities included a full-day advocacy training that offered tips for meetings with policymakers, tips for speaking in public testimony, the difference between advocating and lobbying, and how to tell your personal story to a policymaker, for the most impact, in under 3 minutes.

The training was followed by two full days of meetings with legislators at the State Capitol—introducing them to the work of the reentry coalitions, sharing personal stories that included

challenges, successes, and recommendations for solutions, and advocacy for community reentry and in-reach programs.

On the final day, advocates participated in a reentry simulation attended by legislators and staff, the commissioner of the Department of Corrections and her staff, alongside Juneau community members.

The fly-in was co-sponsored by the Alaska Reentry Partnership and the Juneau Reentry Coalition, with generous support for the advocacy training and simulation by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

For more details, go to www.akreentry.org.

Galena's Mini Wellness Week

Tanana Chiefs Conference Wellness and Prevention was honored to participate in the Mini Wellness Week in Galena earlier this month. The event was held for high school students and included TCC Go presentations, vision boards, Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training, a Mental Health Panel, and a Byron Nicholai Concert.

Other sponsors of the Mini Wellness Week were Gana-A'Yoo Limited, Loudon Tribal Council, and the Galena City School District.



With the recent rise in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, Tanana Chiefs Conference is encouraging those who are eligible to book an appointment to get their COVID-19 vaccine or booster.

Although COVID-19 might not be as scary as it once was, it is still making people very sick, putting some patients in hospital, and even causing long-term health complications.

Bivalent Booster Eligibility:

- At Least 6 months of age
- Have completed your primary series at least 2 months prior

About the Bivalent Booster:

The bivalent is the most recent booster that is FDA approved. It has been offered since the fall and it covers

the original COVID-19 strain as well as Omicron and its new XBB subvariants. The COVID vaccine bivalent booster is safe and effective at keeping you healthy and out of the hospital!

Staying up to date on your vaccinations provides strong protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19. Omicron subvariants are predicted to continue to circulate in coming months here in Alaska, and improving protection is vital.

If you are immunocompromised, elderly, or very young- you are at higher risk for severe disease and at risk for complications. Vaccines for all patients 6 months and older remain readily available and free of cost at TCC.

Call the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center at 907-451-6682 or your local clinic to book an appointment.



Photos by Jennessa Miller and pictures from the concert are provided by Paul Apfelbeck.

What's The Big Deal About ADHD?

By Karen Kallen-Brown, LPC, CDC-II Behavioral Health Clinician

Diagnosis
ADHD

ADHD is Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and it is the most widely diagnosed psychiatric condition in children. ADHD means that there are challenges with having too much energy and movement (hyperactivity) and/or too little attention, so it often causes learning and/or behavior problems at home, school, and in the community.

ADHD comes in three forms: Combined Presentation, Predominantly Inattentive Presentation (also called ADD because only attention symptoms occur), and Predominantly Hyperactive/Impulsive Presentation. While it is usually diagnosed in childhood, many adults also suffer from ADHD, however, their symptoms would have been present in childhood.

How is it diagnosed?

ADHD is diagnosed by medical or mental health professionals. Diagnosis is usually made in childhood because children are often struggling to function well at school, at home, or in the community. Some adults never seek a diagnosis because they find work where their ADHD characteristics help them or do not get in their way. However, many other adults seek diagnosis only after years of painful and frustrating struggles at work, in their relationships, or after experiencing substance use or impulsive behaviors that caused them legal problems. Those problems can be avoided with early diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

Where does it come from?

ADHD is only a deficit disorder because of a mismatch of our evolutionary predispositions passed down in our genes. Genetic variations for ADHD are found in higher numbers in people who come from hunter-gatherer societies because, in those settings, the characteristics of ADHD actually serve as a survival advantage. Think about it: If your ancestors were hyper-alert, noticing everything that is going on, they were more likely to notice signs of game, food to harvest, and dangers to their children, so they were more likely to provide well for their family and

protect their children. If you have ADHD, thank your ancestors for being so alert, and allowing future generations to survive. Your restless ancestors were able to keep on the go following game until they were successful. Their high energy gave them the stamina to bring the harvest home. When patterns changed, their ability to act spontaneously and creatively allowed them to find new solutions that allowed for adaptations and survival. When we are living close to the land, being able to move and do the necessary labor is beneficial. When people stop moving, they usually are able to be overly focused on the things that interest them or matter to them, so people could do the fine detailed work needed to provide the clothing and tools necessary for survival.

Now, consider the changes that occurred with westernization. Suddenly people are moved into situations where they are expected to sit still for long periods of time and to focus on tasks that aren't interesting or important to them. Imagine what happens when a child's body needs to move and they stand up or start walking around in school. They get corrected or "in trouble" and start to think something may be wrong with them. They may check out of their bodies to try to function or spend so much energy trying to remain seated that they cannot focus their attention on the lesson. What happens? Another message of something's wrong. You can see how this can add up to making anyone want to do anything to get away from their discomfort, especially children. So, they may actually leave school or they may act disrespectfully or aggressively to get removed from the class or school, or they may tune out, get depressed, or seek relief through the use of substances. When this happens, they are at a greater risk than youths without ADHD for developing substance use disorders because of the way their brains are wired: the need for a lot of stimulation in order to feel pleasure and fewer receptors for registering the pain or discomfort associated with the substance.

Treatment

Not treating ADHD increases the risk of cigarette smoking, vaping, and substance use disorders and related criminal behavior (and consequences). Treating ADHD helps protect against these. In fact, research shows that treating ADHD early (ideally before age 9 to have the greatest benefit) lowers the risk of addiction to substances. Treating ADHD increases life span because people are less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors seeking stimulation, so they are less likely to die from accidents. Treating ADHD helps people control the urge to act impulsively, so they are less likely to have poor relationships and less likely to engage in aggressive behaviors. Treating ADHD is associated with better academic and behavioral performance at school. Treating ADHD improves the quality of life for the person who has ADHD as well as their family, friends, and community.

Stimulant medication can be prescribed to manage the symptoms of ADHD. Stimulants are not the only ADHD medication treatment option and are not always the best option, regardless of substance use history. Research shows that treating ADHD with stimulant medication does NOT increase the risk of addiction to stimulants, cocaine, marijuana, and alcohol. This is especially important because cannabis use in teens and young adults is especially problematic because of the brain development that is occurring at this stage in life. Early treatment shows the greatest reduction for developing substance use problems, but even late treatment is helpful.

If you suspect you or your child may have ADHD, the first step is to discuss your concerns with your primary care provider. Along with medication management, your primary care provider may recommend behavioral health therapy to learn how to manage the symptoms and to process any stress or patterns of behavior that have developed while ADHD was untreated.

For more information about ADHD or other behavioral health concerns, please call TCC Behavioral Health at 907-451-6682, ext. 3800

Introducing Holly Edwards, New Customer Experience Coordinator

Tribal Government and Client Services (TCS) Division would like to introduce Holly Edwards as the new Customer Experience Coordinator. Our newly created Customer Experience program is here to assist TCC customers in navigating services offered by the TCS Division, as well as connecting them to Health Services, as needed. Customer Experience is here to facilitate communication between customers and various departments within TCS, document customer experience surveys, and collaborate with department managers to meet customer needs and expectations. We are here to help build bonds between customers and TCS, by providing timely and effective customer service and interacting with customers in a way which inspires trust, demonstrates



respect, compassion, and empathy by adhering to the TCC Ch'eghwtsen' guiding principles. Our goal is to have engaged, self-reliant, and satisfied customers.

Holly was born and raised in Fairbanks, and her family is from Holy Cross. She has two children that are school age. She was raised by her mother, who is from the east coast. Most weekends and free time is spent with family. You may recognize her from working in human resources, as she worked there for about a year and a half as a technician.

She looks forward to working with our tribes and people in assisting in any comments, questions and concerns that may arise. Holly can be reached at: customerexperience@tananachiefs.org or by calling (907) 452-8251, extension 3032.

Healthcare From Your Home!

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.**



VPSO Training

The Tanana Chiefs Conference VPSOs held their Regional Training from January 23rd-27th in Fairbanks. TCC VPSOs and visiting VPSOs from Copper River Native Association and Bristol Bay Native Corporation were in attendance and participated in refresher courses for Title 47, Telephonic Arraignment, Web Resources, Cultural Awareness, Tribal Court, Use of Force, Taser, Control Tactics, Search and Rescue, Public Safety Education, and DV Training.



Samantha Ervin, Named 2023 Distinguished Alaskan Pharmacist



TCC would like to Congratulate Samantha Ervin, Pharmacist at the Upper Tanana Health Center, who was recently recognized by the Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA) as the 2023 Distinguished Alaskan Pharmacist.

The award states "Samantha is a gifted pharmacist who has greatly impacted the lives of her patients and co-workers. She established a new pharmacy in Tok, Alaska, where she is able to provide patient services and education."

The Distinguished Alaskan Pharmacist Award is Sponsored by AKPhA. This award was created in 1989 by the Alaska Pharmacists Association to recognize an Alaskan pharmacist who has worked in Alaska for over 10 years and devoted much of their career working diligently to promote and support the profession of pharmacy and community in which they live. Furthermore, they have served as a role model for younger pharmacists to emulate through their sustained contributions to the profession over time.

Congratulations, Samantha!

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

2023 Annual Convention & Full Board of Directors Meeting

MONDAY

March 13, 2023

8:30 am

**CALL TO ORDER-
Annual Delegates Meeting**

Invocation

8:40 am

Presentation of Colors

8:55 am

Welcome Address

9:25 am

Welcome New Second
Traditional Chief

9:45 am

In Memoriam

9:55 am

Committee Assignments

10:00 am

BREAK

10:15 am

Welcome Addresses

Doyon, Limited

Fairbanks Native Association

Interior Regional Housing

Authority

11:00 am

Welcome Addresses

City of Fairbanks

Fairbanks North Star Borough

City of North Pole

11:30 am

Elders & Youth Address

12:00 pm

WORKING LUNCH

1:00 pm

Senate & Congress address

1:45 pm

Introduction of Theme &
Keynote Address

2:45 pm

BREAK

3:00 pm

Candidate Speeches

5:00 pm

RECESS

WELCOME RECEPTION

5:30 pm

Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall

Hosted By:



TUESDAY

March 14, 2023

8:30 am

RECONVENE

Invocation

8:40 am

Elder Housing & Services

10:00 am

BREAK

10:15 am

The Future of Education

12:00 pm

Working Lunch

1:00 pm

Congressional Delegates

1:45 pm

Broadband

2:15 pm

Energy

3:15 pm

BREAK

3:30 pm

Health Services Overview

5:00 pm

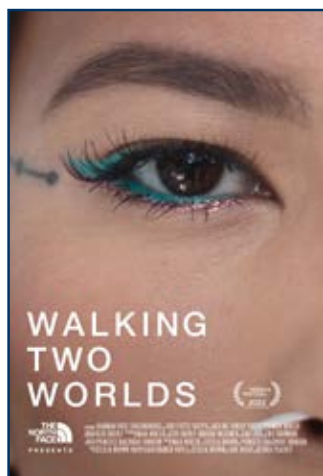
ADJOURN

DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE

6:00 pm

Westmark Hotel Gold Room

Enjoy dinner and watch an exclusive screening of the Walking Two Worlds Documentary followed by a panel featuring Quannah Chasinghorse, Jody Potts, Princess Daazhrai Johnson and Keri Oberly.



WEDNESDAY

March 15, 2023

8:30 am

**CALL TO ORDER - Annual Full
Board of Directors**

8:35 am

Credentials Committee
Report

8:45 am

Roll Call & Establishment of
Quorum

Election Committee Report

Adoption of Agenda

Adoption of Delegates & Full
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes

*EXECUTIVE SESSION AT ANY
POINT IN TIME IF REQUIRED*

9:00 am

TCC President's Report

10:00 am

BREAK

10:15 am

TCC Financial Report

12:00 pm

WORKING LUNCH

1:00 PM

Behavioral Health Report

3:00 pm

BREAK

3:15 pm

Wellness & Prevention

5:00 pm

RECESS

THURSDAY

March 16, 2023

8:30 am

RECONVENE

Invocation

8:40 am

Resolutions Committee
Report

Consideration of Resolutions

10:00 am

BREAK

10:15 am

Consideration of Resolutions
Continued

11:30 am

Elections Committee Report

12:00 pm

WORKING LUNCH

1:15 pm

ELECTIONS

3:00 pm

BREAK

5:00 pm

ADJOURN

TCC HONORING POTLATCH

6:00 pm

Chief David Salmon Tribal Hall



TCC HEALTH SERVICES FAIR



WESTMARK HOTEL

NORTHERN LATITUDES ROOM

March 13 - 14 2023

TCC ARTS & CRAFTS BAZAAR



WESTMARK HOTEL

NORTHERN LATITUDES ROOM

March 15 - 16, 2023



TCC CONVENTION NOTICE

This year's Annual Convention is planning to be open to the public. However, TCC Health Services recommends attendees practice safety measures such as safe distancing, hand washing/sanitizing and not attending if exhibiting symptoms. COVID-19 tests will be available at the event for those who need one. The health and safety of our participants is a primary concern. Remember, you can always watch the event via livestream at:

www.tananachiefs.org/live

2023 TCC Full Board of Directors Meeting Elections 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, Loudon

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

Yukon Flats Subregion..... 3 year term (2023-2026)
Currently Patricia Salmon, Chalkyitsik

TCC Education Council

Yukon Tanana Subregion..... 3 year term (2023-2026)
Currently Phyllis Erhart, Tanana

Interior Athabascan Tribal College Board of Trustees

Yukon Tanana Subregion..... 3 year term (2022-2025)
Currently VACANT
Yukon Flats Subregion..... 3 year term (2022-2025)
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

1 SeatOne year term (2023-2024)
Currently Julie Roberts-Hyslop, Tanana

IRHA Board of Commissioners

Seat E3 year term (2023-2026)
Currently Fred Bifelt, Huslia

Officer Positions

President & Chief/Chairman.....3 year term (2023-2026)
Currently Brian Ridley, Eagle



NEW! Behavioral Health Crisis Line

988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number—it's a direct connection to compassionate, accessible care and support for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress – whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

There is HOPE. The Lifeline WORKS. You are not alone in crisis.

The Council Newsletter

122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424
communications_dept@tananachiefs.org
www.tananachiefs.org



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference



Find Your Purpose

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

New Vacancies

AKP	Administrative Assistant Anaktuvuk Pass
Fairbanks	Administrative Assistant II- Behavioral Health
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Clinician II-Child and Family
Fairbanks	Breastfeeding Peer Counselor
Fairbanks	Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program Coordinator
Fairbanks	Clinical Care Facilitator- Psychiatry
Fairbanks	Cultural Program Coordinator
Fairbanks	Dental Assistant Intern
Fairbanks	Executive Administration Administrative Assistant II
Fairbanks	Human Resources Technician
Fairbanks	Infection Prevention Specialist
Fairbanks	Lead Travel Clinical Laboratory Scientist
Fairbanks	Patient Safety Specialist
Fairbanks	Patient Travel Technician
Fairbanks	Registration & Admissions Specialist
Fairbanks	RN Diabetes Care and Education Specialist
Fairbanks	RN Diabetes Care & Education Specialist - Advanced
Fairbanks	Sterile Processing Technician II-ASC
Fairbanks	Tribal Development Program Coordinator
Fairbanks	Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Healy Lake	Community Health Aide/Practitioner
Kaltag	Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
Nenana	Preschool Assistant Teacher
Nenana	Preschool Lead Teacher
Nulato	Tribal Administrator-Onsite Supervisor
Region-Wide	Intake Coordinator
Tok	Substitute Teacher/Assistant Teacher

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF FEBRUARY 23, 2023

TCC CLOSED • March 17, 2023

TCC offices will be closed Friday, March 17th in observance of Traditional Chiefs' Day. Offices will re-open Monday, March 20th, 2023.

Urgent Care at CAIHC will be open Friday, March 17th from 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (last patient check in) / close at 6:00 p.m.

ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS WILL BE CLOSED



Advocate for Our Way of Life!

Upcoming Opportunities to Provide Testimony and Advocate for the Protection of our Salmon.

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:

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janessa.newman@tananachiefs.org