

Nupuat

A quarterly publication of Chugachmiut, the tribal not-for-profit organization serving the Alaska Native peoples of the Chugach Region.



Spring 2023 Edition

Elders in Berlin, page 3



Photo by Dawn Randazzo

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Career Opportunities

Employee Benefits

Chugachmiut is a rapidly growing 501(c)(3) non-profit agency the Tribal consortium created to promote self-determination to the seven Native communities of the Chugach Region. We are seeking highly motivated, talented candidates to join us on our journey to excellence. At Chugachmiut, you not only start a job but a career that truly makes a difference in the lives of others. Chugachmiut has a hiring preference for qualified Alaska Native and American Indian applicants pursuant to P.L. 93-638 Indian Self Determination Act. Reach out to our HR department at Employment@Chugachmiut.org with any questions.



Scan this QR code to learn more.

Benefits for Full-Time Employees

- Medical and Prescription Insurance – 100% of premiums paid for employees, 50% for eligible dependents
- Dental & vision plans – 100% of premiums paid for employees, 50% for eligible dependents
- Life insurance
- Short and long-term disability
- 401(a) pension plan
- Voluntary 403(b) TDA with Roth contributions
- Employee Assistance Program
- Aflac Voluntary supplemental benefits
- Subsidized gym memberships
- Paid time off
- 13 paid holidays
- Bereavement leave
- Professional Development Plans

Career Opportunities

We are hiring for a number of positions and we would love to have you on our team! For questions about recruitment, please email us at Employment@Chugachmiut.org.

Opportunities Throughout Region

- Addictions Counselor Specialist in Anchorage
- Department of Education Director in Anchorage
- Behavioral Health Clinician - Prince William Sound in Anchorage
- Tribal Victims Services Coordinator in Anchorage
- Health Administrative Assistant I in Chenega
- Behavioral Health Clinician in Homer
- Community Health Aide (CHA) II, III, IV or Practitioner in Nanwalek
- Village Public Safety Officer in Port Graham
- CHAP Director in Seward
- CHA Trainee in Tatitlek

We also have **seasonal opportunities** where you will be exposed to challenging and rewarding work while learning the fundamentals of wildland firefighting and timber cruiser work. Most positions are full-time seasonal with an approximate six-month appointment.

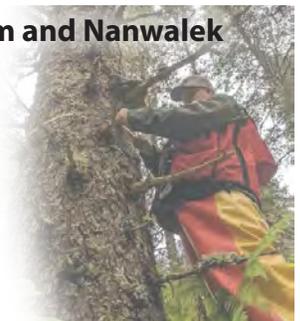
Opportunities in Kenai

- Wildland Firefighter/Firefighter/Natural Resources/Forestry
- Wildland Fire Module (WFM) Squad Boss
- WFM Leader TFLD, ICT4, RXB2
- WFM Assistant CRWB, ICT5, FIRB
- Yukon Fire Crew Superintendent
- Yukon Fire Crew Assistant Superintendent



Opportunities in Port Graham and Nanwalek

- Timber Cruiser
- Assistant Timber Cruiser



APPLY TODAY

www.vscyberhosting.com/Chugachmiut

Chugachmiut Heritage Archive

Cama'i, IAXiishuh and Hello! Are you interested in getting involved with the archives? We'd love to hear from you! We can be reached at (907) 562-4155 or dawnr@chugachmiut.org or andrea@chugachmiut.org.

Elders in Berlin

We are thrilled to share that eight Chugachmiut community members visited the Ethnological Museum of Berlin in Germany! This trip represents a culminating moment in our collaboration with the museum. The Elders and community members included William Smith of Valdez, Pamela Smith of Cordova, Eric Clock of Seward, Brandon Moonin of Tatitlek, Deborah McMullen of Port Graham, Vincent Evans of Nanwalek, and John Johnson and Tatianna Turner from Chugach Alaska Corporation. They were engaging with artifacts that were taken from the Chugachmiut communities in the late 19th century and documenting important cultural knowledge and stories. This trip was intended to be an important step in correcting errors in the metadata about the artifacts and in making the collection forever accessible to the Chugach communities. The edited records will be made available on Chugachmiut's new archival website within a few months! We met virtually with the Elders and community members in Berlin to learn more and had a Q&A about their experience.



Photos by Brandon Moonin and Dawn Randazzo

Chugachmiut Munartat (Artists)

The last several months have seen some meaningful closures within the Chugachmiut Munartat series. The qayaq frame that Joe Tabios completed last summer was covered and waterproofed in March. It is currently in its permanent home with the Kenai Fjords National Park Service in Seward. A huge thanks to Andrew Abyo, Kris Tabios and the whole Tabios family for skinning the unbelievably beautiful qayaq frame that Joe Tabios, memory eternal, created for the region.

Additionally, the groundbreaking bear gut parka that was created last summer in Cordova by some very talented Native artists (June Pardue, Brooke Mallory, Joyce Kompkoff-Peterson, Diane Selanoff, Patience Faulkner, and Dawn Randazzo) is now framed and on display in the Chugachmiut Exhibit Area in Anchorage. Come drop by to see it!

Designing for the Future

As the Archive and Heritage programs grow, our space continues to grow with us. We now have an exhibit area displaying beautiful ceremonial parkas, artifacts, and other cultural heritage belongings. A completed Heritage multipurpose room is now available for use along with a finished archive space and recording studio. It has been a very long, multi-year journey, but we are delighted to have beautiful spaces that can support future preservation and revitalization activities!

Chugachmiut Heritage Archive, continued

Expanding the Historical Record

Cataloging can feel like building a castle out of grains of sand – which makes certain milestones feel deeply meaningful. The Archive staff have currently cataloged 2,797 distinct records in the Chugachmiut archive database. The IT Department is playing an important role in hosting the new archival database to ensure that these records and their information live as long as Chugachmiut does – hopefully forever!

Additionally, Chugachmiut Archive partnered with the Language team to document this year's Maskalaataq Camp in Paluwik. Our team interviewed Elders and language teachers to document their stories and knowledge about the origins and significance of Masking and Starring traditions. Check out these new resources on the Archive website!

Speaking of preservation, we have also developed an Archive Collections Handbook that outlines policies, workflows, and important institutional knowledge. Andrea Floesheimer, our Archivist/Heritage Cultural Collection Coordinator, is leaving Chugachmiut in May, so we are delighted that the infrastructure is now in place to support the continuation of Chugachmiut Archive activities!

Spotlight on Super Volunteer – Dolly Wiles

Llangarwiġ Recovery Camp



The Llangarwiġ Recovery Camp was held in Qutekcak (Seward) in February. We are thankful for support from the Qutekcak Native Tribe, and especially from Tribal Administrator, Dolly Wiles. Dolly went above and beyond and opened her heart and participants appreciated her love and kindness. She is a natural giver and made them feel welcome with her clam chowder and beautiful spread of side dishes. Dolly provided games, items for Recovery Bingo game and was even the bingo caller. Despite having a full day of work, she joined us in the evenings.

Because of her commitment and thoughtfulness, we presented her with a certificate of appreciation. We are thankful for Dolly and appreciate her for supporting the Llangarwiġ Recovery Camp.

About the Llangarwiġ Recovery Camp

Llangarwiġ Recovery Camp is a two-week recovery camp that provides wellness to the people of the Chugach Region. This residential program focuses on personal development. Llangarwiġ means "A place of awakening" and offers support to those who may suffer from alcoholism and other addictions. Contact Eydie Flygare at 907-602-8644 or eydief@chugachmiut.org for more information.



Nanwalek NYO Team & ACE Program Support

Nanwalek NYO Team Receives ACE Program Support

The Nanwalek Native Youth Olympics (NYO) team traveled to Anchorage in April to attend the Senior NYO Games. Kilann Tanape, Head Start Teacher in Nanwalek, was one of the coaches. The Nanwalek NYO team applied for support from the Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) program. Kilann was an amazing coach who served as an example to the team and gave plenty of encouragement. Paired with great coaches, the team put in a lot of hard work and determination, and this led them to success!

Congratulations to all of the NYO athletes who participated in NYO and spent much time practicing and staying motivated! Kilann says, "We cannot thank you enough for your help this year. The trip was a huge success with two athletes placing."

- **Matthias Ukatish Evans** - 4th place in the Eskimo Stick Pull
- **Sean Moonin** - 2nd Place in the Indian Stick Pull



Left-right: Coach Kilann Tanape, Stephanita Cook, Agrippina Jimmy, Sky Evans, Chase Hetrick, Matthias Ukatish-Evans, Dmitri Kvasnikoff, Sean Moonin, Macarius Evans, Bella Velez, Emma Tanape and Coach Nicholi Ukatish-Gahimer.

Accessing Choices in Education (ACE) Program Support

Chugachmiut's ACE program serves Native youth living in the Chugach region, including the communities of Seward, Cordova, Valdez, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Tatitlek, and Chenega in grades K-12 who are enrolled in either public school, homeschool or private school. Our program works to provide funding support to these youth to be able to access educational opportunities that they may not normally be able to find. This includes a variety of different types of services such as school supplies, tutoring, SAT/ACT prep, vocational education, culture/language camps or classes, dual enrollment in universities, and fees for summer camps.



Apply at www.chugachmiut.org/accessing-choices-in-education-ace-application (scan QR code with your phone/device to access application).

Nanwalek Head Start Gets Internet Upgrade

Starlink Installation

Nanwalek Head Start is excited to have faster and more reliable internet thanks to Starlink. A faster and more reliable internet connection allows us to fully utilize the online resources and capabilities of our educational curriculum and child assessment system. It will also allow us to access high quality online professional development opportunities and complete mandatory certifications and training efficiently. We are excited to be able to turn on our cameras during our staff meetings on Zoom and see our whole Head Start team!

The Nanwalek Head Start is the first Chugachmiut location to get Starlink and is our test hub. It was installed by Jason Williams (pictured at left), Director of IT and Corporate Security. Kevin Stanley (middle), Network Administrator, was trained to install future Starlink systems. The Head Start went from a 4MBPS connection speed to a 225MBPS with Starlink.



Chugachmiut Service Booklets

We have updated our service booklets for the communities of Chenega, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Qutekcak (Seward) and Tatitlek. Services vary in each community and may include Medical, Behavioral Health, Social, Heritage & Education, Public Safety, Trust and Tribal & Pass-Through Programs. We mailed booklets to households in the communities and some key locations, and it is also online at www.chugachmiut.org.

Please contact us with any questions at (907) 562-4155 or toll free in Alaska at (800) 478-4155. Please email us with any updates to your contact information or if you would like an additional copy at media@chugachmiut.org.



Chugachmiut Service Booklets March 2023



Chenega, Alaska



Nanwalek, Alaska



Port Graham, Alaska



Seward, Alaska



Tatitlek, Alaska

Realty Department

Team Update

The Chugachmiut Realty welcomes Marlane Broughton (at right) to the department. She joins Jackie Medaris and Mel Lawrence to help with the Vietnam Veterans' Land Applications. The Vietnam Veterans land selection deadline is December 29, 2025. For those Veterans who are deceased, family representatives should contact us as soon as possible. If you know of any Veterans who were denied their rightful land selection, please contact Marlane who can assist and answer questions about eligibility. Reach her at (907) 562-4155 or marlaneb@chugachmiut.org.



Mel Lawrence, Realty Specialist, Jackie Medaris, Realty Director, and Marlane Broughton, Realty Specialist

About the Chugachmiut Realty Department

By Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regulation, all Native allotment and Townsite lot transactions must go through the Chugachmiut Realty department. BIA will not approve any transactions that are not submitted through the Chugachmiut Realty department.

A Title Status Report (TSR) shows ownership and previous work on Native allotments or Townsite lots. BIA approves all transactions only when the TSR is clean, and there isn't a 'cloud' on the land; a cloud is a claim or encumbrance that affects the ownership of the property. The Realty Department will work with you to repair issues with your TSR.

The Chugachmiut Realty department is here to help you with the following:

- Probate
- Gift Deed
- Negotiated Sale
- Right of Way
- Trespass
- Lease
- Revocable Use Permit (RUP)

When you've inherited property from a deceased person, the Probate must be complete before other transactions can be processed by Chugachmiut and approved by BIA. This is the reason it is so important that you help us gather information about a deceased family member. Please fill out the forms we sent you and return the completed forms to our office. Promptly sending BIA information will help to speed up the already long probate process.

Steps and Processes to be Aware of:

- BIA and Chugachmiut have zero funds for subdividing lands
- All surveys and appraisals must be done and approved by BIA - OR - BIA must approve the private company you hire to complete a survey or appraisal
- Native Allotment holders are given Certificates, not Deeds (because the land is held in Trust)
- Deeds are only when you change ownership and sell or buy land or gift deed
- There cannot be Living Trusts on Trust Lands
- There cannot be land swaps, it must be done by gift deed

The Chugachmiut Realty department is available to help walk you through these processes.

Scholarship Opportunity & NET Program

Chugachmiut Scholarship Opportunity

Chugachmiut Higher Education Scholarship applications are due June 30th, 2023 for fall 2023 semester. Access the application at www.chugachmiut.org/formsdownloads ("Applications for Services"), and fill out the "Higher Education Scholarship" section. Then, submit it to 477applications@chugachmiut.org.

Contact Donna Malchoff, Social Services Coordinator, at (907) 562-4155 or donnam@chugachmiut.org with any questions or for assistance.



Chugachmiut Higher
Education Scholarships

NET Program at UAA Native Student Services

Chugachmiut Scholarship Program works to promote this awesome program with Native Student Services (NSS)! The NET Program supports Native students as they transition to being a college student and to the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) campus with preparatory, academic and cultural support. There are a lot of steps to navigate, like financial aid/scholarships, placement testing, housing application, course registration, etc. They will help each step of the way!

NET students living on campus can move into the residence halls in the week before the fall semester starts. They can attend an orientation to make sure they are ready for the first day of classes while also building community with other NET students. The NET Program, for both Fall and Spring semesters, continues through students' first year at UAA with semester-long courses just for NET students that provides academic and cultural support, grounded in Alaska Native values. NET is open to all UAA and UAA community campus students.

As part of the NET Program, students will...

- Get support with all of the steps required as a new UAA student (admissions, financial aid, advising, etc.)
- Become familiar with campus resources, student services and the campus
- Get to know other Native students - make friends, study partners, etc.
- Learn how to use UAA student technology and services
- Take a 1-credit course designed specifically for Native students. It is a weekly check-in course with minimal work outside the classroom, grounded in Native values.

Apply at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeW8GreXZxjL6FNCtKPfdYqbzis-u5HJ6h_w5cej5xAYS4eJw/viewform [Scan QR code with your phone to access link]

If you have any questions, please reach out to Paula Jones at pfjones2@alaska.edu or (907) 786-4008.



Grants Team

Cama'i from the Grants Team!

We have had some changes to the grants team this year and wanted to take some time to say hello. You may be familiar with some of our work through our Money Monday newsletter, where we share a snapshot of the latest available grant opportunities. These funding opportunities are also available on the Chugachmiut website and Facebook.

Andrew C. Garner is the new Grants Department Manager. He is originally from Maryland and lived around the Chesapeake Bay until he moved to Anchorage in 2021. He holds a Graduate degree in History and spent most of his career working with grants for history museums, art galleries, and other cultural institutions. He has prepared proposals for complex arts and educational funding initiatives, including capital projects and renovations, major program expansions, and showcase exhibitions. He is skilled in non-profit development and holds significant experience working with philanthropic and corporate gifts. In his free time, he enjoys spending time outdoors hiking, fishing, or working on one of his five aquariums. He is very excited to work for everyone to better meet the funding needs of Chugachmiut and the tribal communities it serves.



Andrew C. Garner, Melodie Fair and Victoria Barber

Melodie Fair is a Tribal Grants Writer. She has lived in Alaska since 1995 and is in her fifth year with the team. She has experience working in circumpolar health research, program evaluation, and grant application preparation among Alaska Native tribes. She has prepared proposals and grant applications for projects dealing with social services, health, transportation, alternative energy, and environmental threats, as well as prepared transportation safety grants and community/transportation planning documents for tribes both in and outside of Alaska. She especially enjoys working with the Chugachmiut communities and Tribal Administrators.

Victoria Barber is a new Grant Writer. She is a life-long Alaskan who was born and raised in Anchorage. Prior to joining the team, she worked as a reporter and editor at rural weekly newspapers covering the North Slope, Northwest Arctic and Western Alaska and at the Anchorage Daily News. When she's not chasing her two small kids around, she enjoys playing piano and trying – but not succeeding – at finally finishing that sweater project she started knitting years ago.

The Grants team is committed to providing support and coordination for grant proposal development within Chugachmiut and the tribes that we serve. The Grants team can assist you and your team with developing proposals for construction, healthcare services, technology infrastructure, cultural preservation, and much more. If you would like to discuss developing a grant proposal for your department or community, please give us a call at 907-562-4155 or send us an email at grants@chugachmiut.org

Chugachmiut Heritage Preservation

Nanwalek Sugpiak Regalia Project Documented

With support from Chugachmiut Heritage Preservation program, a group of artists and community members from Nanwalek worked on recreating traditional Sugpiak regalia. Culture Bearer Emilie Swenning led the effort with artists, youth and community members. The traditional regalia for a Sugpiaq man and Sugpiaq woman was inspired by the Elders of our region long ago. They were excited to create something that represented who they are and to help to bring the culture and traditions back.

Months of planning went into researching and acquiring materials and supplies needed. We documented the whole process. The regalia is displayed at the Chugachmiut Museum in Anchorage, and details and information may be added to our culture kits and curriculum in the future. Sugpiak regalia has been created before but has not been documented in this way.

Much research was needed to determine the type of regalia worn in our past and the material it was made from. Although it was a challenge to recreate Sugpiaq female and Sugpiaq male garments depicted from the "Alutiit/Sugpiat" book, they persevered and completed it in about two months. They used modern materials because traditional materials are harder to come by. Traditional materials included bird skin, seal whiskers, sea otter, and more. One of the biggest challenges was finding a material that resembled the bird skins of cormorant or puffin. We found a fluffy velvet material that resembled it most. The female dress is ceremonial dress often used for dancing and adorned with dangles. This one is adorned with hide, horsehair and goat hooves.



Alyson Seville and Kayonte Kvasnikoff modeled the female and male regalia. Alyson is also wearing a headdress made by the Seal Dance clothes artists. Kayonte is also wearing a bentwood hat made by Lloyd Tanape. Photo courtesy of Emilie Swenning



Titan Norman is drilling holes into goat hooves for the female regalia dangles.



Artists working on dangles for the female regalia. Left-right: Emilie Swenning, Katrina Hetrick, Barbara Swenning and Tara Swenning.



Cybill Berestoff is putting pom-poms in the goat hooves.

Chugachmiut Heritage Preservation, continued



The regalia is displayed at the Chugachmiut Museum in Anchorage.

The crafting team working alongside Emilie included Euginia Moonin, Imiya Hernandez (Eugenia's granddaughter), Matushka Anna Gust, Katrina Hetrick, Daria Swenning, Barbara Swenning and Titan Norman (age 10). Emilie Swenning is a skilled artist who previously participated in a project of recreating a male Sugpiaq from a painted picture in "Crossroads of Continents", titled Aleut [of Kodiak Island] in Festival Dress Demonstrating How They Hunt" (Mikhail Tikhanov, 1817 RIPA 2127). Since last fall, we met with Emilie as we researched items that resemble traditional material, including bird skins, sea otter furs, and faux fur. All the materials and supplies were ordered by the end of January 2023, and they began the sewing and creating.

The artists each learned new skills along the way and had an opportunity to work as a cohesive team to problem solve. They especially loved the response from the youth when they visited the artists (their parents) during the creation and seeing the completed Sugpiaq regalia during their Sugt'stun bilingual class. They each have a new appreciation for how their ancestors made regalia with traditional materials they hunted, gathered, and processed and all done by hand stitching. They have more ideas for other types of regalia to make in the future. They recently received a grant from the RurAL CAP Foundation to work on regalia for their dance group.



Matushka Anna Gust

Daria Swenning

Desiree Swenning

Embroidered piece

Euginia Moonin and granddaughter, Imiya Hernandez

Health Services Division News

Confidentiality

We appreciate you and your family members entrusting us with providing medical services. We wanted to share a quick note regarding communications. Protecting your and your family member's confidentiality is of the utmost importance to us, and we want to make sure that your needs are addressed in a timely manner. Therefore, please do not send emails to staff regarding medical concerns and or/questions.

Why? Our email system can potentially get hacked and we run the risk of breaching confidentiality (when emails are not sent via secure email). Medical staff spend most of their time working in our electronic medical records system and emails sent via Microsoft email are not only unsecured, but people may experience a delay in getting a response.

Solutions for Secure Communications

- Contact your local clinic so staff can note your questions and/or concerns and send a message to your care providers.
- Sign up for MyChart (secure system) and send a message directly to your care provider via MyChart. Contact your local clinic to set up an account.

If you have any questions, please contact the clinics.

Injury Prevention

Each year we apply and have been awarded mini-grant funding from ANTHC to purchase items to help prevent injuries. In the past we have provided ice cleats, medicine lock boxes, reflective winter hats, walking/hiking sticks to name a few. Not a year has gone by that one of our providers ends up removing a hook from a finger, hand, cheek, or scalp and sometimes close to getting an eye. Wearing a hat with a brim and pair of sunglasses along with a set of good fishing pliers will help to reduce the risk of eye injuries. Our focus this year will be on providing education and supplies to protect our youth to help prevent injuries when fishing.

Community Health Aides will pass out a "fish slayer" safety kit for kids at the clinic level and at the 2023 Community Health fairs. We hope by providing youth with polarized fish finding glasses it will help them feel motivated to wear this important eye protection. We want kids to fish and have fun but also protect their eyes from injury.

COVID-19 Update

Transmission continues to occur in many communities across Alaska, though overall case counts continue to slowly decline. Most COVID-19 in Alaska currently is caused by viruses belonging to either the XBB 1.5 lineage or to BQ lineages.

Measure	January	February	March	April	Overall
Positive Tests	26	35	6	5	72
% Positive of Resulted Tests	13.33%	21.15%	10%	7.69%	15.06%
% Vaccinated of Positive Tests	57.69%	74.29%	100%	100%	72.22%
Negative Tests	169	123	54	60	406
Resulted Tests	195	158	60	65	478
Ordered Tests	194	158	61	65	478
Unique Patient Count - Ordered Tests	154	109	50	52	277

The testing data (1/01 to 5/01) is from info when testing is provided at our clinics and does not reflect home testing results. We are pleased to share we are seeing a reduction of positive cases throughout our Region.

Health Services Division News, continued

Medicaid Eligibility Renewals

On January 30, 2023, the Biden Administration announced its intent to end the national emergency and public health emergency declarations on May 11, 2023.

Why This Matters

The PHE has allowed increased health coverage, increased food assistance, and enabled universal access to COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and treatment. The end of the PHE will impact insurance enrollments and reimbursement for services provided, decrease food assistance, and result in no longer being able to obtain COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and treatment medications for free.

Medicaid Redeterminations

As part of a COVID-19 relief package passed in March 2020, states were barred from kicking people off Medicaid during the PHE in exchange for additional federal matching funds. Starting April 1st, the state will start their process for Medicaid redeterminations and disenrolling people who no longer qualify. Follow the steps below to make sure you complete your renewal on time and stay covered.



Have you heard the news?
Alaska will restart Medicaid eligibility renewals on April 1, 2023.



Don't risk a gap in your Medicaid or Denali KidCare insurance coverage.

GET READY TO RENEW.

Follow these steps to make sure you complete your renewal on time:

Step 1: Make sure your contact information is up to date with the Division of Public Assistance so that important information about coverage gets to you. You can update your contact information by accessing online form at medicaidrenewals.alaska.gov any time or by calling the Medicaid Information Update Hotline at 833-441-1870 during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm.

Step 2: Check your email for important information about your coverage. You will receive a letter in the mail from the Division of Public Assistance sometime in the next 12 months. This letter will tell you if your coverage has been renewed, or if a response is needed. If you receive a renewal form in the mail, fill it out and return it as soon as possible.

Health Services Division News, continued

Seward Cares Event

Chugachmiut Health Services, Behavioral Health and Qutekcak Native Tribe worked together to participate in the Seward Cares event on February 1st hosted by Seward Homeless Connection. The event provides resources to the homeless and community members with housing insecurities to help meet their basic needs. People were given backpacks, emergency blankets, dry food items, assistance with paperwork from several agencies, vaccines, health screenings, a warm lunch, gift cards for food, hygiene products, clothes, winter gear, and many more items. Health Services provided water bottles, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, hand sanitizer wipes, and lip balm, along with resource information to services we provide. We had nine of our beneficiaries attend.



Mae Silook, Purchased Referred Care Coordinator, at the Chugachmiut booth

Spring into Health with Annual Health and Wellness Fairs

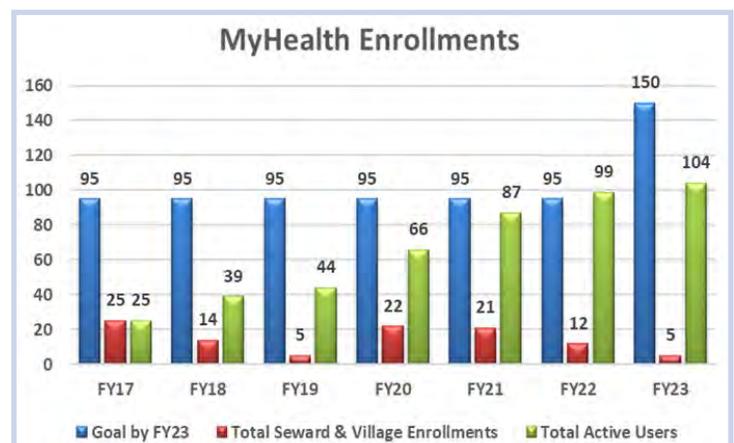
We attended the Seward Community Health Fair in Seward on April 15. We work in collaboration with Health Fair Inc, Providence Seward, Seward Community Health Center, AVTEC, Seward Prevention Coalition and Seaview to promote services and provide education based on the community's health care needs and suggestions. Joe Nyholm (at left), Registered Dietician, and Gala Davis, Regional Health Coach, shared a game to match the amount of sugar cubes with each food or drink item to win a prize. Giovanna Atkins, Behavioral Health Clinician, shared mental health resources, and Jason Opheim (at right), Tobacco Prevention & Intervention Coordinator, provided tobacco and nicotine education. There were over 100 attendees, 28 exhibitors and several volunteers who made the event successful!



MyHealth Enrollment

One of our goals is to increase the number of enrollments to MyHealth. We met our original goal of 95 and increased it to 150 enrollments.

How can enrolling in MyHealth benefit you? Getting an account gives you direct access to your medical record. There is no need to wait for lab results when you have direct access. You can view immunization records and send messages directly to your healthcare team. Sign up by contacting your local clinic to gain access to your account.



Health Services Division News, continued

Pharmacy

Medication PickPoint Machines

We are pleased to share the final two medication PickPoint machines have been installed in Tatitlek and Chenega, which completes our installation plan to have them installed at all village clinics. PickPoint machines are a pharmacy technology solution to improve safety. It's like a vending machine for medications and supervised by pharmacists. It will help add an extra safety component when providing medications to patients and help with inventory tracking. Prior to a medication being distributed a pharmacist will review order, make sure there are no contraindications and approve.

Project Hope (Narcan Kits)

Any drug not directly prescribed could be deadly, and we have a significant increase in overdose deaths in Alaska. Narcan kits across the region have been restocked and are current for the remainder of the year. These kits, along with the necessary training, can be provided to anyone who requests one. Narcan can save lives if administered quickly following an opioid overdose, and it's recommended that anyone with high-risk friends, family, or acquaintances keep a kit handy.

Rainbow fentanyl is a new and particularly troubling form is rainbow-colored fentanyl. It comes in many forms, including pills that look like candy and may be attractive to youth. View more information in the Alaska Health Warning report at: https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Director/Documents/opioids/HealthWarning_DangersofFentanyl.pdf. [Scan QR code with your phone to access link]



Vaccine Program

Clinics are utilizing and implementing Indian Health Service's 3E National Vaccine strategy. The 3E model is **Every patient, Every Encounter, Every Recommended Vaccine**. Staff will be assessing each patient's immunization needs with each visit, and we expect this to improve vaccination rates across the board in our region. Other current objectives include standardizing the documentation process for all vaccines, so that each clinic reports all administered vaccines to the vaccine coordinator in the same manner. The anticipated results will be a vaccination process that is easier to learn for health aides, safer for all patients, and maintains higher levels of inventory management.

The Alaska Department of Health & Social Services rolled out a new application for Alaskans to easily access vaccination records, called Docket (at right). This app can also help you stay up to date on all vaccines by showing you when you're due for a dose. Learn more at vaccinationrecords.alaska.gov.



During a recent trip to Chenega and Tatitlek, the pharmacist worked with clinic staff to install new AccuCold medical refrigerators in both clinics. Now all village clinics have these new medical refrigerators installed. These refrigerators provide more consistent temperature ranges as compared to residential models and will be better equipped to store valuable (and fragile!) vaccines and medications.

Influenza Update

Overall, influenza activity is much lower than the peak observed in December 2022 and weakly case counts have been stable over the past month. Most influenza circulating in Alaska is influenza type A.

Health Services Division News, continued

Updated Purchased/Referred Care Benefits for Vision & Hearing Devices

We are pleased to share an increase in benefits available for beneficiaries eligible to receive Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) funding. If you have any questions or wish to ask about eligibility, please contact your local clinic.

Eligible beneficiaries can now receive the following updated benefits:

- **Corrective Vision Devices** - The current maximum amount is \$400 for corrective lenses or frames purchased every two years through the Chugachmiut-preferred Optician. Costs over the maximum shall be the responsibility of the eligible person.
- **Hearing Devices** - Hearing aid(s) or hearing devices are permitted once every two years, only through ANMC Audiology Clinic. The current not-to-exceed amount is \$2,000 every two years. Costs over the maximum shall be the responsibility of the eligible person.



Prior authorizations are required and must be approved before receiving vision and hearing devices. PRC is considered the payer of last resort and the use of alternate resources (insurance) is required when such resources are available and accessible to the individual. Chugachmiut PRC funds are limited. Necessary medical services are to be provided by the Chugachmiut Healthcare Providers and/or other IHS or Tribal facilities or providers, such as Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC), Southcentral Foundation (SCF) or Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), except when there is an emergent need for services to prevent death or serious impairment.

Community Health Aide Program (CHAP)

Our health aides continue to demonstrate extraordinary resiliency and have managed to overcome countless challenges brought on by short staffing, numerous emergencies complicated by weather, and the day-to-day demands of clinic operations region wide. We acknowledge the sacrifices made by our CHA/Ps and appreciate the unwavering support they continue to provide within their communities. Over the past quarter, our staff has made an extra effort to contact community members that are due for Chronic Health Maintenance. We are striving to find balance as we get back to the basics while still addressing COVID-19 testing, immunizations, and patient education. We continue to make every effort to stay current with internal processes and overall medical knowledge. Health Aides continue to participate in a weekly health aide huddle where we discuss any new updates and provide ongoing staff training. Our staff is prepared to help support those community members who will be traveling out of the village for preventative and specialty healthcare services.

Beginning January 2023, all health aides are required to complete a standardized biennial clinical competency evaluation. This new requirement will help ensure health aides across the state maintain a satisfactory level of clinical competency which is vital to providing high-quality healthcare in remote Alaska. Planning continues to determine how this new requirement will be incorporated into our routine recertification process at Chugachmiut.

We are pleased to share that with the help of a few local community members, we were able to move to the new Tatitlek Clinic! We are also excited to have **Julie Crites**, DNP, FNP join us as our Community Health Aide Program Clinical Instructor. There are many new certification requirements that have been implemented as the CHAP prepares for other tribes in the lower 48 to follow Alaska's tried and true model. This has done a lot to formalize training standards. Julie will be an integral part of our Credentialing Maintenance activities.

Health Services Division News, continued

Community Health Aide Program

Community Health Aide Training Updates

- **Kelly Yeaton**, CHA II from Nanwalek is waiting for an opening to attend session III training.
- **Melonie Kashevarof**, CHA III from Chenega obtained her session III certification on 1/11/23. She has expanded her scope of practice and now is able to provide services such as well woman issues, prenatal visits, well woman examinations, well child examinations and can address mental health and substance abuse issues. She also recently attended and graduated from session IV training in Anchorage.
- **Jeff Wolf**, CHP from Seward completed his 6-year recertification as a CHP, expires 12/19/2028.
- **Tania Romanoff**, CHA-T from Nanwalek has finished her pre-session learning needs and will be attending a blended training* session I/II in April. Tania's current role as a trainee has allowed her only minimal hands-on patient contact. Currently, as a trainee who is waiting to attend a basic training session, the health aid is allowed to shadow and observe other CHA/Ps in the village clinic, they may perform vital signs but must have them rechecked by a certified health aid. The trainee also works on Cerner competencies and eCHAM (Electronic Community Health Aide Manual) familiarization. The trainee may perform duties allowed as an ETT (if ETT certified).

*The blended session I/II training course is 24 weeks of training with 18 weeks being in the village distant learning and 6 weeks at the training center for a total of 260 hours in the village clinic. She will be learning a body systems approach, focusing on medical history, basic exams, problem specific and complete histories and physicals. She will get an introduction to basic anatomy, physiology, and function. Learn skills including blood drawing, urine dip, lab testing, suturing, wound care, IV fluid therapy, splinting and medication administration. This training also involves an ETT review as well as discussion on mental health and substance abuse knowledge. Once completed, session II certified CHAs are allowed to take call in the village.



Congratulations to our 2023 graduating class of Community Health Aides! They play a vital role in the health and wellness of our communities across Alaska.

This year's graduating class (left to right) include Katherine Joseph, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Tanya Salmon, Southcentral Foundation, **Melonie Kashevarof**, Chugachmiut; Monica Brown, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation; and Letia Walcott, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation.

Diabetes Prevention & Control Program

Our team can assist in testing for prediabetes or diabetes, as well as provide information and support on diabetes (which includes prediabetes, diabetes type I and 2, and gestational). We offer diabetes medication education, diabetes self-management and education support, medical nutrition therapy and exercise education. We are starting the plan to host the 2023 Health Events in your communities and more information will be shared soon! If you have a specific health topic you would like addressed at your event, please let us know.

Graduate Highlights

Isaiah McPherson Graduates from ANSEP Acceleration Academy



Congratulations to Isaiah McPherson who is graduating from ANSEP Acceleration Academy this May! Isaiah is the son of Jose and Tasha McPherson with family from Port Graham. His maternal grandparents are Patrick and Francis Norman. Fran is Chair of the Chugachmiut Board of Directors. He will be doing an internship at the National Fish and Wildlife in Washington, DC Foundation this summer. He will return to the University of Alaska Anchorage this fall to complete his bachelor's degree in computer science.

ANSEP Acceleration Academy students are enrolled in university courses that count towards high school graduation and any university degree program. They participate in group study, hands-on projects led by practicing scientists and engineers, and weekly community building and social activities.

We wish Isaiah the best in his future endeavors!

Louise Chikigak Earns MBA - Health Services Administration

Congratulations to Finance Division Director Louise Chikigak who graduated with a Master of Business Administration – Health Services Administration from Alaska Pacific University! Louise is originally from Alakanuk located along the Bering Sea coast in Southwest Alaska. Her paternal grandparents were Thomas and Cecelia Chikigak and maternal grandparents were Joseph and Catherine Agayar. Her parents are Louis and Elizabeth Chikigak. She and her significant other of 29 years, Bebinco Lliaban, Jr., have two adult children, Kole and Shayle Lliaban. Their first grandchild, Unugtauruk, was born on Easter.

Louise started working for Chugachmiut in 2015. She says, "I love traveling out to the communities and meeting people from the region, especially when I have the chance to eat all the Native foods from the Chugach region."



Graduate Highlights, continued

Phyllis Wimberley Earns Master of Arts in Management with HR Specialization



Congratulations to Deputy Director Phyllis Wimberley who graduated with Master of Arts in Management with a Human Resources Specialization from Wayland Baptist University! Phyllis is originally from Oklahoma and has resided in the great State of Alaska for 20 years. She started her professional career as a nurse in 1983, practicing for 30-plus years. She returned to school and graduated with a BS in Business Management and Ethics and began a career in Human Resources. She relocated to Anchorage in 2003 to be near family and take a position as HR Manager with Chugachmiut. She was promoted through the ranks and currently serves as Deputy Director of the organization.

Phyllis has two adult daughters and two grandchildren: Alexia and Mason. She also enjoys four grand pups: Harley Quinn, Belle, Aspen and Max. She began her 20th year in April and continues to look forward to serving Chugachmiut's beneficiaries throughout the region.

Family, friends and some colleagues joined Phyllis at her graduation ceremony. They include (left-right):

Back row: Daisy Barnes, Human Resources Manager; Louise Chikigak, Finance Division Director.

Middle row: Amanda Gould - niece and Dave Kabella - friend.

Front row: Jan Vanderpool, Executive Director; Kristy Wimberley - daughter and Staff Accountant; Phyllis Wimberley, Deputy Director; Alexia Oakley - granddaughter; and Bruce Oakley - son-in-law.

Denali Wildland Fire Module



The Denali Wildland Fire Module started their season in April. This crew is a new resource in Alaska made possible through funding in the bipartisan infrastructure law. Chugachmiut has played an active role in fire suppression and forest management in Alaska for over 20 years. The new five-year participating agreement between Chugachmiut and Chugach National Forest will allow for an increase in local capacity to assist with accomplishing hazardous fuels objectives on the forest and neighboring lands. The crew jumped right in to assisting district staff with pile burning on their first day.

The Denali Wildland Fire Module conducts pile burning on the Seward Ranger District of the Chugach National Forest.
Photo by Phil Ingersoll



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Chugachmiut Board & Executive Leadership

A seven-member Board of Directors governs Chugachmiut; each board member selected by their tribal government. The Board of Directors appoints the Executive Director who manages the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Fran Norman, *Chair*
Port Graham

Jim Ujioka, *Treasurer*
Valdez

Arne Hatch, *Director*
Qutekcak

Nanci Robart, *Director*
Tatitlek

Larry Evanoff, *Vice Chair*
Chenege

John Kvasnikoff, *Secretary*
Nanwalek

Pamela Smith, *Director*
Eyak

Angela Vanderpool
Executive Director

Nupuat Newsletter

Have some suggested topics or feedback for our newsletter? We welcome submissions from Tribal members, councils and employees. To submit ideas, articles, stories, pictures for use in the Nupuat or to update your address, please contact us at media@chugachmiut.org or (907) 562-4155.