

Eastern Aleutian Tribes
Update
February 2014
Executive Director Report
Jennifer Harrison



Alaska State Capitol building. (John Krumm/Flickr)

People

- Welcome our New Hires:
 - Nick Bennewise, IT Technician, Anchorage
 - Courtney Kuchenoff, Janitor, Sand Point (temporary)
 - Sharayah Foster, Quality Improvement (QI) Manager, Anchorage
- Open Positions:
 - CHAs - Akutan and Nelson Lagoon
 - CIC/Janitor – Akutan

Service

- I have the following trips planned, so that I can visit with community members in person and find out what they think about EAT's service. It is my goal to visit all the communities.
 - Sand Point – March 10-14, 2014
 - False Pass/Nelson Lagoon on May 12–17, 2014
 - I am looking into scheduling trips to Adak and Akutan in May/June.
- Rural Anchorage Service Unit (RASU)
 - Betty Calugan, Edgar Smith, Selma Ramsdell, Marta Hahn and myself attended our first annual planning meeting with Dr. Doug Eby, Justin Atteberry, Sonda Tepon, Dr. Martha Cotten, Don Deis, and Keitha Lamborn at RASU. The highlights from the meeting included radiology training, clarification regarding Village Docs, Dental opportunities, Behavioral Health opportunities, and credentialing/orientation for our new providers.
 - Upcoming RASU Village Visits:
 - Village Docs
 - Akutan: Dr. James on February 25-28th
 - King Cove: Dr. James on March 5-12th
 - Akutan: Dr. James on March 25-April 1st
 - False Pass/Nelson Lagoon: Dr. Elison on May 19-27th
 - Optometry
 - False Pass: Nazly Mofidi on April 21-25th
 - King Cove: Grant Humphreys on May 19-23rd
 - Upcoming EAT Dentist village visits:
 - Adak: February 16 – 27th
 - Sand Point: March 14 – 28th
- Our UDS team successfully submitted the annual report on time! This is a huge report that requires a lot of work by our Clinic Information, Human Resources, Finance, and Billing Departments.

Financial

- For January 2014, EAT was in the black and we continue to be in black for fiscal year 2014.

Growth/Innovation

- Many staff members are revising their job description with their supervisors to create three goals to work on.
- Together with the City of Cold Bay and the Aleutians Eastern Borough, we have started a capital campaign to raise funds for the Cold Bay Regional Clinic.

Report on Meetings Attended:

- February 19 – 20, 2014 - Alaska Primary Care Association (APCA) Meeting, Juneau
 - We learned about APCA's legislative priorities for 2014 and visited the Hill to discuss the benefits of continuing to support Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMA), Mental First Aid Training, and expanding Medicaid or at least adding a community health center representative to Governor's Medicaid Task Force.
 - A positive highlight of the week was being able to share our views and stories on the pending radiology regulations with state legislators and being assured that the process for the potential changes has been slowed down by months, if not postponed indefinitely.
 - If the new regulations had passed "as is", it would have required EAT to hire a Radiology Technician for each clinic and/or require our Providers to complete 250 hours of radiology training. Both of which would have been detrimental to our financial stability. So, the delay is great news!
 - We met with the following legislators and/or their legislative aides:
 - Representatives Les Gara, Bob Herron, Geran Tarr, Bryce Edgmon, and Eric Feige
 - Senators Lyman Hoffman and Gary Stevens

Upcoming Meetings/Opportunities

- Indian Health Service Pre-Negotiations, Anchorage (March 19-20, 2014)
 - Focus – Network with other Alaska Tribal Health Compactors about decreasing expenses while improving health services and work with Indian Health Service on increasing income
- Anchorage Service Unit Tribal Health Committee Meeting, Anchorage (April 7-8, 2014)
 - Focus – Network with other Tribes, tribal health organizations, SCF, and ANTHC to discuss how things are going at our regional hospital, ANMC, and work together on improvements.
 - If we are having any issues with ANMC this is one opportunity to discuss those things with them directly.
- Alaska Native Health Board, Juneau (April 9-10, 2014)
 - Focus – Work together with other Alaska Tribal Health Compactors on state-wide issues and educate legislators as a group.
- Village Service Management Team (VSMT), Anchorage (April 14, 2014)
 - Focus - Improving communication with RASU and increase in services and village visits by Village Docs, Optometry, and Dental
 - If we are having any issues with RASU, SCF, ANTHC, or ANMC this is one opportunity to discuss those things with them directly.