



Nupuat

Serving the Native Peoples of the Chugach Region

Winter 2011
www.Chugachmiut.org

Home School Liaisons

By Jerry Luken, Editor
and Dominie Dew, Regional Education Coordinator

As part of Chugachmiut's Heritage Preservation Program, Home School Liaisons (HSLs) are in their second year of a three year project, in which they offer guidance to students and parents to help build the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Liaisons offer intensive tutoring, home visits and parent conferences to help students reach their full educational potential. With parents, HSLs will review games and activities that help students improve learning skills and become successful students. Liaisons also offer a monthly parenting meeting using the *Positive Indian Parenting* curriculum. These monthly meetings help parents explore traditional Native child-rearing practices and then apply those values to modern parenting skills.

The program reaches more than 20 students throughout the region in grades kindergarten through eighth. Though it is specifically designed for these ages, some of our HSLs have gone beyond expectations and have worked with high school students on their own time. One HSL was instrumental in preventing sev-



From left: Jenny Vlasoff of Tatitlek, Ann Evans of Nanwalek, and Skip Shewell of Seward

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We want to keep you informed.

Do you want to be part of our email list? We will send news and announcements regarding Chugachmiut services directly to your email inbox. Email Jerry Luken at jerry@chugachmiut.org if you are interested.

Mark your calendar: the Health Services Division spring and summer visits are coming:

Port Graham and Nanwalek

May 31—June 4

Chenega and Tatitlek

June 20—24

Call the North Star Clinic at 1-800-224-3076 for info

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100 Alaska Native Men stirs media interest

The first meeting of 100 Alaska Native Men was covered by Alaska Dispatch in an article written by Jill Burke (www.alaskadispatch.com). That was, in turn, picked up by Indian Country Today Media Network, a national media outlet based in New York City. This is great exposure for Chugachmiut and an important issue facing Alaska Natives.

Since arriving at Chugachmiut in 2003 Executive Director Patrick Anderson has placed a strong emphasis on encouraging Alaska Native men to realize their potential.

Initially this began with the Fatherhood Program, consisting of workshops and classes to give men the tools

needed to be involved and attentive fathers. This expanded to the Healthy Relationships and Positive Pathways programs to help native men and women provide stable home environments for children.

With 100 Alaska Native Men, Patrick hopes to spearhead a movement where Native men explore and initiate solutions to the issues facing their communities, such as alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse.

This is directly linked with Chugachmiut’s Restoration to Health initiative, which seeks to explore historical and childhood traumas and how they have impacted the health of this region’s people.

See the articles at:

<http://alaskadispatch.com/dispatches/rural-alaska/8445-wanted-100-alaska-native-men>

<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2011/01/100-native-men-reducing-alaskas-high-rates-of-abuse-and-violence/>

For more information about 100 Alaska Native Men, contact Matt Sena at 334-0124.

NUPUAT is a quarterly publication of **CHUGACHMIUT**, the tribal not-for-profit organization serving the Alaska Native peoples of the Chugach Region. We welcome submissions from Tribal members, councils, and employees. Please share your comments and suggestions: **Jerry Luken**, Newsletter Editor, 1840 Bragaw Street, Suite 110 Anchorage, AK 99508-3463, (907) 562-4155, jerry@chugachmiut.org



Contact Numbers

Chugachmiut, Anchorage.....562-4155 1-800-478-4155	North Pacific Rim Housing Authority.....562-1444 1-888-274-1444
Health Services Division.....224-3490 1-800-224-3076	Chugach Regional Resources Commission.....562-6647
Dental Clinic.....224-4925	Chugach Alaska Corporation.....563-8866 1-800-858-2768
Chugachmiut Homer Field Office.....235-0577	Chugach North Technical Services.....1-888-833-9288
<hr/>	
Chenege IRA Council.....573-5132	Qutekcak Native Tribe.....224-3118
Chenege Clinic.....573-5129	North Star Health Clinic.....224-3490
Native Village of Eyak.....424-7738	North Star Dental Clinic.....224-4925
Ilanka Health Clinic (Eyak).....424-3622	Tatitlek IRA Council.....325-2311
Cordova WIC Office.....424-5731	Tatitlek Clinic.....325-2250
Nanwalek IRA Council.....281-2274	Valdez Native Tribe.....835-4951
Nanwalek Clinic.....281-2250	Valdez WIC—call the Cordova WIC Office.....835-2173
Port Graham Village Council.....284-2227	
Port Graham Clinic.....284-2241	

The Chugachmiut Restoration to Health Consultation launches a

bold and innovative initiative to change the way we think about health. We want to initiate a cultural shift in the Chugach Region where unhealthy lifestyles are no longer “business as usual” or “just the way it is.”

We will explore the Adverse Childhood Experience Studies (ACES), perhaps the largest scientific research study of its kind, which analyzes the relationship between multiple categories of childhood trauma and health and behavioral outcomes later in life. **Vincent Fellitti, M.D.**, one of the principal investigators of the study, will be speaking at the consultation.

A major component of the consultation will be the World Café (www.theworldcafe.com). This is a “conversational process” where groups of people discuss important questions and issues and share ideas and experiences. It connects diverse perspectives and insights so that we can find solutions together.



APRIL 6-8, 2011

DOOR PRIZES

MASSAGE THERAPY

HEALING TOUCH

MEDITATION



Sign up at your tribal council office to participate

Chugachmiut will cover the cost of travel, lodging and meals for 10 participants each from Chenega Bay, Nanwalek, Port Graham, Seward and Tatitlek. Our family and friends from Valdez and Cordova are invited to participate at their own expense.

Visit www.chugachmiut.org for more information.



Emergency Technician Training a great opportunity to help your community and yourself



Bonita Jager of Port Graham attended Camp Kick Ash in Aniak February 3-26 to train in various emergency rescue techniques and obtain Emergency Trauma Technician (ETT) accreditation.

The camp featured such techniques as how to rescue people from mock burning buildings, CPR, outdoor survival skills and emergency first aid. Additionally, they practiced fire, water, ice and high ropes rescue tech-

niques. Registered nurses, physician assistants and clinic managers were on hand to share information about health careers.

In addition to preparing students for a career in emergency services, the camp teaches leadership, team building skills, personal and team goal setting and independence. These skills are invaluable not only in emergency services but in any career one may choose.

For more information on ETT opportunities, contact Skip Richards, Public Safety Coordinator, at 235-0577 or 866-235-0577.

Chugachmiut's New Feedback Management System

Kert LaBelle, Lean Coordinator

Chugachmiut is always open to improvement and over the past five years we have demonstrated just that. As processes that need improving are identified, we look at the facts, propose solutions and make improvements. We are also dedicated to recognizing excellent work when we see it. When we show appreciation to an employee for a job-well-done, we demonstrate that their hard work is important and hopefully encourage everybody to do the same. By fixing problems and acknowledging successes we promote exceptional work and services that benefit you, your family and your community.

Now we need your help to improve Chugachmiut's services. January marks the beginning of our Feedback Management System which consists of questions or comments or complaints from you; what programs and processes can we improve upon and what are we doing well? Any feedback that you give us will be kept confidential on a need-to-know basis throughout the entire process.

There are two ways that you can give us feedback: fill out a Feedback Form and mail to our offices or call and ask for a Feedback Representative. We will keep a record of it in a database and inform the appropriate staff; if your feedback is a complaint, they will help resolve your issue and keep you updated on any progress on the improvement. If your comments are positive they will be saved and passed on to their supervisors so employees can be recognized for their good work.

Chugachmiut wants your input so we can always be improving our services to you. If you have any questions or comments, send an e-mail to info@chugachmiut.org or call 1-800-478-4155 and ask for a Feedback Representative.

Regional Domestic Violence strategic planning

By Meg McKinney, Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator

The Chugach Women's Violence Intervention Project (CWVIP) hosted the Women's Advisory Council Strategic Planning Meeting and Retreat in Anchorage December 4-5. Participants from the villages of Chenega Bay, Tatitlek, Port Graham, and Nanwalek convened to assess and address Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention work in their communities. The Women's Advisory Council Strategic Planning Meeting featured a multidimensional format. The women received baseline information regarding domestic violence and advocacy in remote areas, tackled family trauma issues, and had the opportunity to partake in some healing modalities including sound work, structural integration, and yoga.

The Planning Meeting and Retreat concluded with a program development brainstorming session in which participants communicated their educational and outreach desires for their region. The women conveyed many exciting ideas for the first half of 2011. They voiced a genuine need for community domestic violence resources that reflected local values. And to meet this need, the Women's Advisory Council hatched the CWVIP Domestic Violence Poster Contest.

The poster contest is seeking locally generated, original work from students, grades 6-12, from the villages of Tatitlek, Chenega Bay, Port Graham and Nanwalek. While the theme of Domestic Violence Awareness is rather broad, students are invited to focus their work on an aspect of outreach that most inspires them. They may be inclined to highlight identifying domestic violence,

breaking the cycle of abuse, characteristics of safety planning, getting help or who to go to for help and support, or what makes a healthy relationship. There will be prizes for the first, second, and third place winners and their artwork will be professionally reproduced and distributed throughout the region.

The Poster Contest has already been introduced in Tatitlek and their closing date for entries is February 25th, 2011. The Contest will launch in Chenega Bay, Port Graham, and Nanwalek during the months of February and March and winners will be announced April 11, 2011, during the Prince William Sound Traveling Health Fair. Phoebe Greenough, Chugachmiut Behavioral Health Therapist, is providing collaborative support with the contest and will be coordinating with the CWVIP to promote and facilitate this event.

The concept of a Traveling Women's Retreat to take place in each of the four villages was also conceived during the strategic planning. Members discussed gathering participants, size, and scope of the event. The retreat would also host domestic violence education and prevention activities for all ages in each community.

The Chugach Women's Violence Intervention Project hopes to host a follow up Women's Advisory Council Strategic Planning Meeting and Retreat this Spring to build upon the December meeting's momentum. For further information about the upcoming Retreat, the ongoing Poster Contest, the CWVIP, or to request an event for your community, please contact Meg McKinney at 1-877-907-8738 or meg@chugachmiut.org.

Tribal councils get added office support

Tribal councils and tribal administrators have more help in the offices thanks to a new position: Tribal Administrative Assistant.

After much advocacy, the Board of Directors happily approved the new position, which will provide much needed support in areas such as payroll, accounts payable, human resources, budgets, paperwork filing and any other areas the council may require.

Chugachmiut pays for this position through its annual IHS and BIA compact funding but the position is supervised by the individual tribal councils. The councils create and tailor the job description to best meet their needs.

Tribal councils have been requesting additional office support for three to four years. Chugachmiut has been investigating options but was restricted by financial concerns. Thanks to Chugachmiut's adherence to Lean principles of management that have resulted in systems improvements and elimination of waste across the organization, resources were freed to fund the tribal administrative assistant. In turn, the position should help free up tribal administrators and councils to spend more time on program development and services for their communities.

VPSO Program an important partnership

By Skip Richards, Regional Public Safety Coordinator and Jerry Luken, Editor

After a brief hiatus due to lack of state funding, the Village Public Safety Officer Program has returned to Chugachmiut. An important issue that ensures the best program possible is cooperation among the three primary parties: the State of Alaska, Chugachmiut and the local village council.

The Alaska State Troopers, through the Department of Public Safety, has responsibility over arrest authority and VPSO training and represents the State of Alaska as granting agency.

Chugachmiut is the employer of the VPSO and in that capacity has the responsibility and liability for the VPSO's actions. As part of risk management, Chugachmiut must retain operational control over the VPSO in order to minimize liability. The VPSO Manager Skip Richards acts as liaison among the three groups and ultimately supervises the VPSO.

The village council, as the local governing agency,

has the responsibility to provide for public safety in the village and, to that end, has day-to-day oversight of the VPSO as they are on-site and the VPSO needs to work closely with the council to best serve the community.

Problems among the three entities are often issues of jurisdiction and authority. The troopers are required to enforce state and federal law. Village councils are concerned with local ordinances. Chugachmiut is concerned with issues regarding their employee

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The most important aspect of keeping the program functioning is the three entities and VPSO keeping lines of communication open.

Chugachmiut VPSOs:
Jay Levan, Nanwalek
James Lolley, Chenega Bay
Reuben Norman, Port Graham
Bill Settle, Tatitlek

Job opportunities in Chenega Bay and Tatitlek

Chugachmiut Health Services continues to seek candidates for the position of building custodian at the health clinics in Tatitlek and Chenega Bay. We value hiring our beneficiaries for available positions and we are committed to providing a safe and clean clinic.

The position pays \$18 per hour and consists of 20 hours of work per week. That is a potential yearly income of \$18,720 per year.

We are seeking someone with a High School Diploma or GED. A candidate with some custodial, janitorial and/or maintenance experience is preferred. The job also requires a driver's license and willingness to be trained in Health Services Division Cleaning for Health program and cleaning standards for health facilities.

The full job description can be viewed at www.chugachmiut.org under "Jobs." There you will also find a Chugachmiut Application for Employment and instructions for applying.

For more information on the position please call Cheri Hample, Health Services Division Director, at 1-800-224-3076 or 907-440-4344.

Thank you.

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eral students from dropping out of high school during the first project year.

“Human development is the most important aspect of this program,” says Helen Morris, Heritage Preservation Program Director. “We are seeing benefits for not only the students but the parents and liaisons as well.”

All HSLs have been given the opportunity to prepare for and take the Praxis ParaPro Exam, which is used to certify teacher aids and assistants. When HSLs have successfully completed the Praxis ParaPro Exam and acquired support from the local school district, they will be able to apply for a Highly Qualified Paraprofessional Certificate with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. At least two HSLs have expressed interest in pursuing a career in the field of education, one of which is currently enrolled in college course.

Top, from left: Shannon Aldrich, Home School Coordinator, Valdez; Wannah Zacher, HSL from Chenega Bay. Bottom, from left: Leslie Fogg, HSL from Seward, and Dominie Dew, Regional Education Coordinator from Seward.



VPSO, from page 5

being directed by agencies other than Chugachmiut, of which they have no control but have possible risks and liabilities associated with employee's actions.

The most important aspect of keeping the program functioning is the three entities and VPSO keeping lines of communication open. This is especially important during the hiring process as the village council needs to support the hire of the VPSO and support this person once they are on the job.

The VPSO Program began in the late 1970s as a means of providing rural Alaskan communities with needed public safety services at the local level. Main duties include:

Law Enforcement

- Patrol village to enforce state law and local ordinances.
- Investigate misdemeanor crimes and traffic violations.
- Assist troopers during minor felony investigations.
- Complete required reports to the Troopers.
- Transport prisoners.
- Assist Department of Corrections in probation and parole functions.

Fire Protection

- Maintain fire equipment.
- Conduct fire drills in schools.
- Conduct fire department meetings.
- Assist volunteer fire fighters.
- Conduct fire prevention surveys.

Search and Rescue

- Organize a search and rescue (SAR) team or act as liaison for the Department of Public Safety in community.
- Assist SAR team members.
- Maintain a list of available SAR equipment and supplies on hand.
- Direct SARs by coordination with the state troopers.

EMS

- Assist local EMS teams in emergency medical situations.
- Ensures first responder safety.
- Provide public safety information to schools and the public.



CHUGACHMIUT

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Chugachmiut is the tribal consortium created to promote self-determination to the seven Native communities of the Chugach Region. We provide health and social services, education and training, and technical assistance to the Chugach Native people in a way which is acceptable to Native cultural values and tradition in order to enhance the well-being of our people by continuing to strengthen the tribes and increase self-determination opportunities for community operated tribal programs.

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