

North Slope Borough
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Muriel K. Brower, MPA, MPH, Director

To: Honorable Mayor Asisaun Toovak
City of Utqiagvik

From: Muriel Brower, Director
Department of Health and Social Services

Date: October 9, 2023

SUBJECT: NSB Health Department report

Program updates:

The WIC program received the State of Alaska grant award in late September and is scheduling travel to all the villages, look out for announcements about dates. WIC staff encourage all eligible applicants to apply for services and come see the staff while they are in your village, staff are planning to do food demonstrations in the village travel as well.

This summer, the VET program gave 96 rabies vaccines in Barrow, 85 in Anaktuvuk Pass, 43 in Atqasuk, 84 in Wainwright. 20 dogs were spayed in Barrow, 8 in Anaktuvuk Pass, and 3 in Atqasuk. Staff responded to 18 loose dog calls in Barrow, completed 14 neutering procedures in Barrow, 9 in Anaktuvuk Pass, and 3 in Atqasuk.

Integrated Behavioral Health and Children and Youth Services completed a Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities survey from September 12-15, 2023. This accreditation allows the program to be in compliance with industry standards, ensures that services and outcomes are person-focused and individualized, ensures the accountability of funding sources, and provides management with guidance for professional growth.

Senior Centers are now under the Health Department, for an application please call 907-852-0276 to speak with the Program Coordinator who can assist you with your request.

Healthy Ways, funded through a grant from the State of Alaska, completed travel to Anaktuvuk Pass, Point Hope, Wainwright, and Atqasuk. The purpose of the grant is to alleviate barriers that affect our health with the main barrier being addressed as community engagement and increased social support. The project will continue activities throughout October and November, please be on the lookout for those dates soon.

Public Health Nursing: provides immunizations to all North Slope residents. They also provide educational materials about COVID-19, head lice, bed bugs, emergency preparedness and substance misuse. PHN also and provides self-testing kits and condoms free to the public. The Pfizer vaccine (pediatric and bivalent) is available for anybody ages 6 months and older. Our Public Health Nurses provide flu and COVID boosters to the homebound elders on an as needed basis. Call 907-852-0270 to make your appointment today!

Veterinarian: provides public health services including animal control, environmental disease investigations, rabies control, and limited Veterinary services to the communities of the North Slope. Animal control services include stray and loose dog management and confinement, pet relinquishment, and pet adoption. To schedule an appointment for your pet with the Veterinarian Technician, please call 907-852-0277.

Emergency Shelter: provides cots for those who do not have a place to sleep for the night. Upon intake clients must fill out an intake packet with the NSB Integrated Behavioral Health program; they must also exit the shelter during the daytime working hours to look for employment, search for permanent housing, and attend appointments. The shelter has provided a place that is structured and has had many clients leave the shelter because they were successful in founding housing and employment. The Emergency Shelter staff are actively building professional relationships with local and, off slope entities to address case management needs and to provide a safe therapeutic environment for clients. The Emergency Shelter can be contacted by calling 907-852-0436.

Women, Infant, and Children: provides nutritional education to families and provides onsite application process with a review and determination of eligibility for services. The WIC program staff also provide breastfeeding support and education to clients across the North Slope. Applications are available on the NSB main website's Health Department page. The WIC staff encourages everybody who is eligible to apply, call 907-852-0410 for more information.

Community Health Aide Program: provides health care services to villages of the North Slope through the medical oversight of Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital/ASNA contract. Our CHAPS are trained with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital, Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center, and with many agencies to ensure services can be provided in our local villages. Referrals are made for substance abuse, mental health, public health nursing, dental care, eye care, victim assistance, and other supportive services at our clinics. For more information about CHAP call 907-852-0256 to reach CHAP program staff.

The Senior Program: is a program for anyone 60 years of age and older on the North Slope. The Senior Program provides van services in Utqiagvik and our outlying North Slope villages. The services run seven days a week and limited services on holidays and specials events. The senior elders may call in and request to be transported to events, the airport, for meals, and other destinations. The Senior Program has been having monthly potlucks on the last Friday of the month, volunteer organizations to host the potlucks may call the Senior Coordinator at 852-0276 for more information.

Integrated Behavioral Health: works with clients to receive substance and behavioral health assistance. Clients who have substance misuse disorders are eligible to receive inpatient treatment at Lakeside Milam in Seattle, Washington, or Native American Connections in Phoenix, Arizona. IBH staff process

applications for substance abuse and mental health conditions. IBH contracts with two Psychiatrists to provide mental health oversight of medications and case management.

The IBH program can be accessed in several ways:

- Walk in at 5200 Karluk Street, Barrow, Alaska from 8:30am-12pm and 1pm-5pm
- By Calling 907-852-0366 from 8:30am-12pm and 1pm-5pm
- After hours, weekend, and holidays: through the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital Emergency Room or through your local village clinic

Arctic Women In Crisis:

Arctic Women in Crisis (AWIC) is searching for safe homes for women and children in several villages, please contact AWIC at 907-852-0261 for more information. AWIC is a safe, nurturing, and inclusive shelter for women, elders and children who are survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. In a culturally sensitive setting, AWIC staff provides shelter, a 24-hour crisis line, education, counseling, legal and medical advocacy. As well as information and referrals, and emergency travel for victims of crime from the North Slope villages to Utqiagvik. Our priority is to provide culturally competent, trauma-informed comprehensive care for our program participants. AWIC also assists males who have been victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. AWIC is committed to meeting the emotional needs of survivors of violent crimes.

Additional services provided by AWIC include providing a safe place for domestic violence victims, assisting victims with filing protective orders, applying for free legal services, responding to crisis calls 24 hours a day, and assisting clients with their daily living activities.

If you would like to know more information on safe homes and how to become a safe home, please contact AWIC at 907-852-0261.

Children and Youth Services: is an emergency shelter for children that focuses on family reunification while providing in-house visits and accommodating day passes for families to visit. CYS staff continue to accompany clients to community wide events in Utqiagvik, these events have been focused on the Inupiaq culture and the importance of contributing to a strong framework that includes identity and resilience. CYS has a total of 14 beds available for the emergency placement of children from entities including Native Village of Barrow and State of Alaska OCS. CYS can be contacted by calling 907-852-0263.