

North Slope Borough

Department of Health and Social Services

P.O. Box 69

Barrow, Alaska 99723

Phone: (907) 852-0344

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Joshua Stein, LMSW, Director

To: Honorable Mayor Asisaun Toovak, City of Utqiagvik

From: Joshua Stein, Director, Department of Health and Social Services

Date: January 22, 2024

SUBJ: NSB Health Department Report

Public Health Nursing (PHN): Public Health Nursing recently hired a new Public Health Nurse that started the week of 01/22/24. Public Health Nursing has started scheduling school visits and will be traveling to the villages at the end of this month.

They also provide educational materials about COVID-19, head lice, bed bugs, emergency preparedness, and substance misuse. PHN has self-testing kits and condoms free and available to the public. Our Public Health Nurses provide flu and COVID boosters to the homebound elders as needed. Call 907-852-0270 to make your appointment today!

Veterinarian Clinic: The health department hired a new animal control officer who started the week of 01/15/2024. The health department offered a position to a veterinary doctor interested in providing coverage until a full-time veterinary doctor is hired. The health department actively continues to recruit clinical staff for the vet clinic.

The vet clinic provides primary domestic animal care, specifically to nail trimmings and rabies vaccinations. The Vet clinic has itinerant Veterinarians who visit Barrow and outlying villages on a rotational basis. To schedule an appointment for your pet, please call 907-852-0277.

Emergency Shelter: The Emergency Shelter is currently working with CIPM for a project analysis for the renovation of the shelter. The staff continues to provide case management to clients to support appointments, seek employment, medical and to fill out applications for housing.

Active Clients:

Male: 8

Female: 5

Total: 13

Shelter Capacity: 28

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The 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 daytime working hours to look for employment, search for permanent housing, and attend appointments. The shelter has provided a structured place and has had many clients leave because they successfully found housing and employment. The Emergency Shelter staff are building professional relationships with local and off-slope entities to address case management needs and provide clients with a safe therapeutic environment. To contact the Emergency Shelter, please call 907-852-0436.

Women, Infant, and Children (WIC):

The State of Alaska determined 566 potentially eligible individuals on the North Slope. The caseload fell from 244 to 232 over the holidays. The WIC program will be traveling with the Healthy Ways program this spring.

WIC provides nutritional education to families and provides an onsite application process with a review and determination of eligibility for services. The WIC program staff provides breastfeeding support and education to clients across the North Slope. Applications for the WIC program are available on the NSB main website's Health Department page.

The WIC staff encourages everybody eligible to apply; call 907-852-0410 for more information.

Community Health Aide Program (CHAP): CHAP continues to recruit for open positions. The health department is working with CHA's to help support increased training, staffed trained up as train-the-trainers, and communications.

CHAP 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 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 speak with CHAP staff.

The Senior Program: The senior program is awaiting background checks for the Para Van Drivers in Anaktuvuk Pass (2) and has posted for a Senior Office Specialist position. The Senior Center is obtaining quotes to furnish the two units that were flooded last winter.

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The Senior Program is 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 special events. The senior elders may call in and request transport to events, the airport, meals, and other destinations. Please call 907-852-0276 for more information on elder services and benefits.

Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH): IBH continues to recruit for new clinicians and counselors. IBH has a new clinical supervisor starting on 01/29/2024. A new clinician started in January and has been completing assessments and providing services to clients.

IBH is in the process of recruiting four more clinicians to help support the North Slope. IBH is also in the process of interviewing and hiring for counselor I positions. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in learning behavioral health.

IBH traveled to Point Lay and Wainwright in December to support the communities.

IBH 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 Monday through Friday, 8:30 am-12 pm and 1 pm-5 pm.
- By Calling 907-852-0366, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am-12 pm and 1 pm-5 pm
- After hours, weekends, and holidays: through the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital Emergency Room or your local village clinic

Arctic Women In Crisis (AWIC): AWIC and ASNA partnered on 12/07/2023 to have an ASNA Family Advocate attend a family night dinner and share resources.

AWIC completed the bullying awareness classes for teachers and students in partnership with Laura Webb, School Counselor at Barrow High School.

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FY 2024-2028 GOALS for AWIC

- Goal 1: Increase member programs' capacity to effectively serve survivors and prevent violence in their communities.
- Goal 2: inspire action to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, and intersecting issues.
- Goal 3: ensure system accountability to survivors.
- Goal 4: ensure victims and survivors across Alaska have equitable access to the services and supports that they need.
- GOAL 5: develop the necessary infrastructure for ANDVA to accomplish its core functions.

If you want more information on safe homes and how to become a safe home provider, please get in touch with AWIC staff at 907-852-0261.

Children and Youth Services (CYS): CYS Ipalook students participated in the Christmas program, wearing the atikluks from donations and collaboration by City of Utqiagvik, Prevention, IHLC, and Tuzzy Library. Quyanaqpak for all your support!

CYS is actively recruiting for a clinician to support the children and youth placed in the care of CYS.

CYS 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 robust framework that includes identity and resilience. CYS has 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.

Prevention Program: Prevention and IBH completed the first family night on 12-14-23. Prevention will start traveling to the communities to implement family night and prevention activities.

The prevention family night activity for Barrow is scheduled for 01/30/24. Prevention will meet with the school district during January to plan prevention activities and increase engagement within the schools across the North Slope.

Prevention, IBH, and Public Health Nursing participated in the Blue Christmas event.