

# North Slope Borough

Department of Health and Social Services

P.O. Box 69

Barrow, Alaska 99723

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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: March 20, 2024

SUBJECT: NSB Health Department report

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**Public Health Nursing:** Public Health Nursing recently hired a new Public Health Nurse. We currently have one open position for a registered nurse.

They also provide educational materials about COVID-19, head lice, bed bugs, emergency preparedness, and substance misuse. PHN also provides self-testing kits and condoms free 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:** The Vet Clinic hosted Dr. Olsen and her team. Dr. Olsen held a rabies clinic on March 14 & 15. The Health Department continues to actively recruit for the open veterinary position.

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 staff continues to provide case management to clients to support appointments, seek employment and medical, and fill out applications for housing. Emergency Shelter is working on updating their policy and procedures.

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

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entities to address case management needs and provide clients with a safe therapeutic environment. The Emergency Shelter can be contacted by calling 907-852-0436.

### **Women, Infant, and Children:**

The staff will be traveling to the communities. WIC staff recently traveled to Wainwright. The WIC program will be conducting food demonstrations in AKP and Point Lay.

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 also provides 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 eligible to apply; call 907-852-0410 for more information.

**Community Health Aide Program:** The CHAP program continues to recruit for open positions. The CHAP program worked with Iisagvik and were able to train six staff in ETT. CHAP will continue to work to get all their staff trained in ETT. Point Lay clinic received their new couch and fridge for itinerant quarters.

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 reach CHAP program staff.

**The Senior Program:** The Senior Center has recently ordered new washer and dryers to update the laundry room. We are waiting for the units to arrive.

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.

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**Integrated Behavioral Health:** Lynette Hepa, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health is currently acting Program Manager of IBH. IBH is currently in the process of recruiting more clinicians to support the North Slope. IBH has recently hired two Counsel I staff. The staff will start the training process.

IBH has started providing parenting classes and working on getting more clinical groups for community members.

The IBH program can be accessed in several ways:

- Walk in at 5200 Karluk Street, Barrow, Alaska, from 8:30 am-12 pm and 1 pm-5 pm.
- By Calling 907-852-0366 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 Counselor III attended the AK Network on DV/SA (ANDSVA) prevention gathering in Anchorage. AWIC started providing in-house parenting classes in February.

## FY 2024-2028 GOALS

- 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, please get in touch with AWIC at 907-852-0261.

**Children and Youth Services:** CYs worked with Ilisagvik College to coordinate a dog sledding activity with the children.

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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 provided activities with the Kindergarten classes at Ipalook. Prevention has been traveling to the communities for the Healthy Ways outreach. Prevention Coalition meetings continue to occur monthly.