

# North Slope Borough

Department of Health and Social Services

P.O. Box 69

Barrow, Alaska 99723

Phone: (907) 852-0344

Fax: (907) 852-0389



Joshua Stein, LMSW, Director

To: Honorable Mayor Asisaun Toovak City of Utqiagvik

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

Date: June 13, 2024

**SUBJECT: Report**

---

## **Health Department:**

The Health Department has two new interns this summer. We have one intern working from Nuiqsut and one from Barrow. The interns will travel and work within our health programs to assist with programming and learn about the different opportunities and careers within the health/social services field.

## **Public Health Nursing:**

Public Health nurses visited all schools and conducted screenings. PHN will start school screening again at the beginning of the new school year.

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 Health Department Vet Clinic had a vet visit during the week of 05/6/2024. Dr. Sarah Bahan, DVM, was able to tour the community and clinic.

The Health Department is working with the Mayor's office to onboard a new vet.

The Animal Control Officers have completed training and will be starting to travel to the communities. We have provided an offer to the last open position for the Animal Control Officer.

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 has created new job descriptions to increase the clinical position within the emergency shelter. This will allow the emergency shelter to provide increased case management support.

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. The Emergency Shelter can be contacted by calling 907-852-0436.

### **Community Health Aide Program:**

The Health Department traveled to Fairbanks on April 23, 2024, to meet with the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Administration. The Health Department and TCC completed a Memorandum of Agreement for the Anaktuvuk Pass health clinic. Law departments are currently reviewing the MOA for finalization.

The Health Department also met with TCC's adult and behavioral health department clinical team regarding behavioral health services for Anaktuvuk Pass.

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 out to CHAP program staff.

### **Integrated Behavioral Health:**

IBH staff traveled to Anchorage and received training to implement a new parenting curriculum for the North Slope families. The Positive Indian Parenting class will be held for the first time starting June 11, 2024, and will run every Tuesday for eight weeks.

# North Slope Borough

Department of Health and Social Services

P.O. Box 69

Barrow, Alaska 99723

Phone: (907) 852-0344

Fax: (907) 852-0389



**Joshua Stein, LMSW, Director**

IBH has two clinicians who have started receiving their certification for Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR). This mental health therapy enables people to heal from symptoms and emotional distress. Two clinicians are scheduled to attend training for Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) certification.

IBH currently has one clinician position open and three clinicians being onboarded through our Human Resources department.

IBH is starting a Youth Group. The Youth Group will focus on youth from 6 to 12th grade. Each group will work on teaching a new skill and will have an activity for the youth to participate in.

IBH has contracted a new psychiatrist. Dr. Lowenstein will be starting with IBH in June 2024.

The IBH program can be accessed in several ways:

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

## **Arctic Women In Crisis:**

AWIC Counselor taught bullying prevention and healthy relationship classes at Barrow High School on 04/1, 4/4, and 4/12/2024.

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

## **Children and Youth Services:**

Children Youth Services ordered new clinical activities for the youth to participate in counseling with the clinician. CYS is currently in the process of writing a new grant to help support the facility.

CYS staff participated in the Children's Youth Conference in Anchorage this month. The staff learned new clinical skills for integrating daily activities with the children.

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 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.

**Prevention Program:**

The Prevention Program and IBH started building our activity supplies this month to increase the programming provided through these two departments. We have a meeting scheduled for 5/13/2024 to start planning for the upcoming school year.

Healthy Ways Travel:

Wainwright: March 13 to March 15 (Completed)

Point Hope: March 18 to March 20 (Completed)

Anaktuvuk Pass March 27 to March 29 (Completed)

Nuiqsut: April 8 to April 10 (Completed)

Atkasuk: April 17 to April 19 (Completed)

Point Lay: April 23-25 (Completed)

Kaktovik: April 30-May 2 (Completed)