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IN THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS ASNA has received recognition for the positive changes that are occurring at the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital, including the Level IV Trauma Center designation, successful reaccreditation of the Laboratory by the College of American Pathologists, and Dental being named Outstanding Rural Program by the Alaska Rural Health Conference. Learn more about each of these awards as they are featured in this edition of the newsletter. These recognitions are owed to our staff. Our Board of Directors, the Hospital Governing Body and I applaud these achievements of our hard working employees.

Our spring, summer and fall seasons are filled with subsistence whaling, fishing and hunting activities. I would like to congratulate our successful whaling captains who celebrate with Nalukataq festivals in the month of June in our coastal villages. And as the season progresses, many of you will be pursuing caribou, bearded seals, walruses and fish. May you be blessed with enough to share with all of our North Slope friends and family.

As many of you know, my family suffered the tragic loss of my son Donald Gunnar Carroll on May 24. We know that there are others who are going through, or have gone through the painful loss of losing a family member. This is a part of life we do not talk about as much as we should. My husband Geoff and I have talked about continuing our lives to include more time with friends, family and our community. We want to thank our North Slope and statewide friends for all the kind words, prayers and support. For those who may also be mourning a loss, we know that you are surrounded by people who will walk with you during your mourning for a child, parent, friend and/or community member. God Bless you.

Best Wishes,
Marie Carroll, President/CEO

CHARLES PATRICK UTUAYUK TUKUMIQ CALDWELL II
BIA Scholarship Recipient

ASNA is pleased to feature one of our Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) scholarship recipients, Charles Caldwell II, who is a tribal member with Wainwright Traditional Council. He was born in Barrow and his parents are Charles P. and Darlene Julie Patkotak Caldwell. Caldwell is currently attending Santa Rosa Junior College in Sonoma County and is majoring in Electronic Technology.

“Receiving the BIA scholarship has given me so much motivation in allowing me to devote my time to studies in a very intensive program that will open doors and at the same time provides me a perspective in a world I have wondered much about. The award showed me a path I couldn’t see and I don’t think I would be in the position I am without it,” says Caldwell.

The program Caldwell chose to pursue lays firm groundwork studies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. With that groundwork, he has the opportunity to transfer into a California State University or a University of California sciences specific program or pursue a higher level accreditation.
MEDICAID 101
What is Medicaid/DenaliCare and Denali KidCare?

MEDICAID, also known as DenaliCare, is administered by the State of Alaska to assist low-income residents with payment for medical services.

Denali KidCare is part of the Medicaid Program and provides health insurance for low-income pregnant women and children up to age 18.

All are encouraged to apply for family Medicaid/DenaliCare or Denali KidCare. The State of Alaska (SOA) used to send stickers, but now they issue cards, and the application is new.

QUALIFICATIONS

These programs offer medical coverage to:

- Families
- Children
- Elderly
- Disabled adults who receive Social Security benefits
- Pregnant women (Must submit proof of pregnancy)

The rights and responsibilities are listed on the applications.

TO APPLY

Please don’t forget to bring the following items when you turn in the application:

1) Photo IDs of anyone over age 16 years that is on the application
2) Birth certificate or ASRC card or Social Security card
3) Living expenses: Rent receipts, BUECI bills, and a telephone bill
4) Current bank statement
5) Current income stubs

Please bring all of these documents when seeking assistance in filling out the application. If you don’t, it only delays the process—a process that can normally take up to 30 days.

If and when you are approved, you must bring SSMH the card so we can make photocopies for your files to update our system. If you received a denial letter, please bring that as well, as you may be able to access other forms of assistance, such as MTFA. And if there are any changes with your status, please let us know.

PICK UP AN APPLICATION TODAY

You can pick up an application at:

- SSMH
- Wellness Center
- Native Village of Barrow (Please note: They do not currently have a fee agent.)

ALL qualified members are urged to apply.

SOA Medicaid/DenaliCare and Denali KidCare does not let SSMH know who is approved or denied. SOA normally deals directly with the clients if they need anything else, and SSMH is not authorized to call about their cases.

SSMH CONTACT

Kathleen Olemaun, Patient Benefits Coordinator/Fee Agent
907.852.4611

LABORATORY RE-ACCREDITATION

by the College of American Pathologists

SSMH LABORATORY IS PROUD TO announce its re-accreditation by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), following successful completion of its recent two-day assessment. The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program is internationally recognized and considered the gold standard of laboratory practice. During the assessment, the inspector thoroughly examined the laboratory’s records and quality control documents for all testing performed over the previous two years. The inspector also evaluated laboratory staff qualifications, nursing staff qualifications that perform Point-of-Care laboratory testing, equipment, facilities, safety programs and records, and overall management of the laboratory.

“The laboratory is grateful to SSMH leadership, our nursing staff and doctors, colleagues at Alaska Native Medical Center, and our Laboratory Director for helping us achieve this high standard of care. As a customer-focused laboratory, we recognize the importance of maintaining this high standard for our patients,” says Sophia Alexander, Laboratory Manager.

The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program is designed to specifically ensure the highest standards of care for all laboratory patients and also confirm laboratories meet or exceed regulatory requirements. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved authority of the CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program and is also recognized by The Joint Commission. This accreditation affirms the hard work and strict lab standards the laboratory at SSMH adheres to on a daily basis.
**2014 HEALTHY LIVING SUMMIT**

The North Slope Borough Health Department and Arctic Slope Native Association hosted a Healthy Living Summit (HLS) on April 14-16 in Barrow. There were over 200 people in attendance. The HLS included a variety of presentations, healthy activities to jumpstart health and fitness goals, networking with friends and colleagues, and over 20 exhibitors representing other regional and statewide organizations.

The Winter Bear Project play also made its northern debut. The play showed twice and over 400 people attended. The Winter Bear tells the story of an Alaska Native teen who rises above past traumas and suicidal thoughts to become a leader.

We were pleased to have presenters from Barrow, including Rebekah Gueco and Dr. E.J. David. Gueco presented on The Mental and Emotional Effects of Substance Abuse Among Youth. Dr. David presented on Colonial Mentality Among Indigenous Peoples Throughout the World: Where, Who, How, and So What?

**REGIONAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS LEADERS RECOGNIZED AT THE HLS**

During the HLS, three people from the North Slope were recognized for their dedication to health care.

**JUDGE MICHAEL I. JEFFERY** was awarded “Outstanding Health Care Volunteer or Community Member.” Judge Jeffery was raised in Los Angeles. After graduating from Yale Law School and working for a year in Boston, Judge Jeffery spent almost five years volunteering in India. He moved to Barrow in 1977 to found the Alaska Legal Services office. Judge Jeffery was appointed Superior Court Judge in 1982. He and his wife Esther raised their three children in Barrow. Judge Jeffery is the Alaska Court System’s representative to the Alaska Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Partnership and the Alaska Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

**HEATHER HOPSON** was awarded “Outstanding Health Care Youth.” She was born and raised in Barrow, Alaska. Hopson’s parents are Curtis and Tammy Hopson. She graduated from Barrow High School in 2011 and just completed her third year at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Hopson’s major is in Rural Development. She plans to return home to work upon completion of her degree.

**STEPHANIE RAEANNE ĀNYAK AISHANNA** was awarded “Outstanding Health Care Provider.” She is from Kaktovik, Alaska. Aishanna works as a Community Health Aide IV for the North Slope Borough. She is the daughter of Freddie and Alice Aishanna. Aishanna’s grandparents are Herman and Mildred Aishanna and Philip Tikluk, Sr. and Georgianna Gordon. She is the mother of three children: Jaden, Skylar, and Mya. Aishanna loves to hunt whale, help others, and sing.

Asna would like to thank our many HLS sponsors, including Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Arctic Slope Community Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, BP, ConocoPhillips, Southcentral Foundation, Shell, East Coast Pizza, UCLA, and many more.
Employee Spotlight:

KRIS ELKINS, FOOD SERVICES MANAGER

KRIS ELKINS grew up in Oregon and moved to Barrow in January 1996. She and her husband Randy raised two daughters in Barrow and also have a nine-year-old son. Elkins received her Dietary Manager Precertification from the University of Florida. She started working at SSMH in October 2003 and is currently the Food Services Manager.

Prior to working at SSMH, Elkins and her husband worked for Omni Enterprises for seven years and managed grocery stores in Barrow, Bethel, and King Salmon. She is proud to call Barrow home. Elkins loves her job, being a team player, and contributing to the care of SSMH patients. She enjoys working for ASNA, a company who takes pride in its work and people, whether it is patients, employees or comrades.

SSMH has been certified as a Level IV Trauma Center by the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS). A Level IV Trauma Center has demonstrated an ability to provide Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) prior to transfer of injured patients to a higher level Trauma Center. It provides evaluation, stabilization, diagnostic capabilities, 24-hour laboratory coverage, trauma nurses and ATLS certified physicians available upon patient arrival.

“SSMH has made the commitment to provide optimal trauma care to Barrow and its surrounding communities by voluntarily becoming verified as a Level IV Trauma Center. SSMH provides professional and institutional resources through trauma treatment protocols, equipment, data reporting, and system performance improvement to meet the states strict verification standards.”

“This certification is made possible because of our hardworking staff and longstanding partnership with the North Slope Borough,” said Marie Carroll, President and CEO of ASNA. “By aligning resources, we have demonstrated our commitment to providing the highest level of trauma care for our North Slope community.”

The Alaska Native Medical Center is the only Level II Trauma Center in Alaska, the highest level possible, since Alaska does not have trauma research and teaching facilities. According to the DHSS website, the death rate from unintentional injury is more than 50% higher in rural areas than urban areas, and Alaska continues to have the third highest trauma mortality rate in the nation.
PRESS GANEY SURVEY PHONE CALLS

We want to hear your feedback!

SSMH wants to provide you with the best possible experience, and we are always looking for ways to improve. A few days after your appointment or stay, you may receive a survey phone call from us. We use a third-party vendor, Press Ganey, who collects your feedback. We then use this information to make improvements to our services.

We value your feedback and would appreciate it if you would take the time to complete the survey.

And if you ever want to share your feedback directly, you are always welcome to call us at 907.852.9331.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Your Calendar

SSMH SPECIALTY CLINICS SCHEDULE

ORTHO: August 5–6
HEPATITIS: August 21
INTERNAL MEDICINE: August 28–29

Specialty Clinic appointments are only for those who receive a referral from a Primary Care Provider. For more information, please contact Nicole Thomason directly at 907.852.9284. Or call toll free at 1.888.525.7764.

DENTAL VILLAGE TRIPS

WAINEWRIGHT: August 11–15 with Dr. Domagalski & Dr. Goodhand
KAKTOVIK: August 25–29 with Dr. Domagalski & Dr. Bart

Dates are subject to change. To see the dentist, please call your village health clinic to ensure your name is put on the “dental list” with your current phone number(s).

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