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ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION (ASNA) is an Alaska Native-Owned, non-profit, health and social services organization based in the northernmost region of Alaska, serving the villages of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiaġvik, and Wainwright. Formed in 1965, by original founders Samuel Simmonds, Guy Okakok, Sr., and Charles ‘Etok’ Edwardsen, Jr., ASNA was originally created to help protect the lands of the Arctic Slope region, beginning the process that led to the passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

Today, ASNA manages the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH), the only critical access hospital and Level IV trauma center within the region. SSMH has become the center of an increasingly agile healthcare delivery system that spans the North Slope of Alaska. Our Joint Commission accredited hospital services begin in Utqiaġvik and reach throughout the region.

The facility includes:

» Fourteen (14) outpatient exam rooms
» Four (4) emergency department beds
» Two (2) trauma bays
» Ten (10) inpatient beds, including two (2) Labor and delivery rooms
» Physical Therapy
» CT Scan / DEXA Bone Density Scan
» Specialty Clinics: Podiatry, Diabetes, Arthritis, ENT, Audiology, Nutrition, Sleep, EGD, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Colonoscopy, Cardiology, Pediatric Cardiology, Pulmonology, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Hepatitis, Surgery, and OB-GYN

Suamarugut
WE ARE RESILIENT
To be resilient means, we are able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions.
MISSION
Our mission is to promote the health and well-being of the people of the Arctic Slope.

VISION
The people of the Arctic Slope are healthy and content.

OUR VALUES
ASNA and all operations of the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital are guided by the values of the Iñupiat people of the Arctic Slope:

Qiksiksrautiqagñiq Utuqqanaanun, Allanun, Iñuuniaqvigmun — Respect for Elders, Others, Nature
Ilagiigniq — Family Kinship and Roles
Aviktuaqatigiigniq — Sharing
Iñupiuraallaniq — Knowledge of the Language
Paamaagiigniq — Cooperation
Piqpakktiqagñiq — Love and Respect for One Another
Quvianqungiq — Humor
Aŋunialaniq — Hunting Traditions
Nagliktuutiqagniq — Compassion
Qiñuiniñiq — Humility
Paaqlaktautañiq — Avoidance of Conflict
Ukpiqqutiqagñiq — Spirituality
PAĞLAGİVS! It is a privilege to serve the healthcare needs for the people of the Arctic Slope. This year’s annual report has a theme of “Suamarugut – We are Resilient”. This theme is an important reminder and encouragement to all of us: we stand together, and we can endure the Covid-19 pandemic. In the middle of uncertainty and rapid change, we are still here. Our traditional values give us the guidance to navigate through the pandemic as well as giving us the strength to complete the journey together.

Looking back over the year, we saw many difficulties. All of us watched our nation’s President declare a national emergency in response to the rapidly spreading virus. This news came at a time when the North Slope region was experiencing a bad snowstorm, and the feeling was that we were faced with danger and more confusion was to come. In efforts to protect one another we saw friends and family members separate to hunker down, schools and businesses closed to protect their staff, and we saw many people struggle to adapt to the new restrictions on travel, social distancing, and masking practices. Our long-time air carrier RAVN filed for bankruptcy, which led to urgent questions about getting medicines out to village residents, and the national financial markets were in free fall. Health mandates led to the closure of travel and lodging providers, which limited the ability for patients to access services outside of their home communities. All of us felt some level of anxiety and concern about the future of our loved ones.

As the virus spread across the nation, we watched it move toward Alaska and knew that eventually we would have to confront it here at home on the North Slope. Guided by the teachings of our elders, ASNA staff knew that work had to be done to prepare for the coming surge. We saw many local leaders and community elders bring forward their ideas and recommendations on how to keep our communities and loved ones safe. Words of encouragement and prayers for our frontline healthcare workers gave us hope. Coming together as a team, the ASNA staff responded quickly to secure emergency supplies, medicines, and equipment to meet the healthcare needs in our region. Our incident command team worked daily with every department to manage our response to the public health emergency. Each department had responsibilities during this time, and we are pleased to report that every person did their part to help.

Staff from all areas of the organization, went above and beyond expectations to respond to these unprecedented times. In recognition of these extraordinary efforts, ASNA leadership created a new award for employees: the ASNA Healthcare Heroes
award. A recognition made amongst their peers; we congratulate our recipients. We also want to say thank you to our many partners who have helped us during these challenging times. You too have become our Heroes.

For perspective, Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital is credentialed as a ten (10) inpatient bed critical access hospital, including two (2) labor and delivery rooms. We built out emergency bed capacity to more than 45 beds to assist patients in the hospital if many needed care at the same time. Our facilities team and medical staff worked to create special negative pressure patient care areas in the hospital so we could care for Covid positive patients while still keeping other patients and staff safe. Our environmental services team worked around the clock to increase hospital cleaning and sanitation efforts to fight the spread of the virus. To help protect our villages, the nursing staff opened an airport testing center to test travelers, we sent SSMH rapid response teams to provide community-wide testing when needed, and the very second that the Covid vaccine became available, we made every effort to provide it. These are just a few examples of the many ways our staff responded to address this national health emergency. Many people have given much to help our region, our communities, and our families stay safe. We will always remember this experience and, “Suamarugut – We are still here and we are thriving”.

Looking ahead we continue to build our healthcare capabilities. Our communities now have state of the art x-ray equipment to help rapidly diagnose patients in their home communities. In response to community needs, we have expanded capacity for cardiology, sleep study, and respiratory therapy to also serve patients in their home communities. We have upgraded our CT machine, ultrasound equipment, and clinical lab equipment to provide advanced care for patients in the hospital. We anticipate expanding our labor and delivery unit, so more families can have their babies delivered here at home rather than being referred out to Anchorage. The Covid-19 pandemic served as a reminder of why we must continue to develop the best possible healthcare services for our people. By standing together and working side by side, we will continue to reach our goals.

Quyanaqpak,

BERNICE AVIUK KAIGELAK
Chair

&

MARTHA QAĠĠUN MONNIN
President & CEO
ASNA
Board of Directors

Board Chair
BERNICE AVIUK KAIGELAK
At-Large Seat

Vice Chair
NANCY ROCK
Native Village of Point Hope

Treasurer
ISABEL NASHOOKPUK
Wainwright Traditional Council

Secretary
NOREEN KALEAK
Native Village of Kaktovik

Sergeant at Arms
MOLLY AHKIVGAK
Native Village of Atqasuk

Members

ANNA NAGEAK
Naqraqmiiut Tribal Council

HAZEL KUNAKNANA
Native Village of Nuiqsut

GWENDOLYN PIKOK
Native Village of Point Lay

REBECCA BROWER
Native Village of Barrow
Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital

Governing Committee

The ASNA Board formed a hospital governing committee to specifically oversee the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital operations. The governing committee includes tribal council representatives, the ASNA President/CEO, the Hospital Administrator, the Chief of Staff, and the North Slope Borough Director of Health & Social Services.
Good dental health is an important indicator for overall health and well-being. The SSMH Dental Clinic is supporting the Arctic Slope through community based and patient specific dental disease prevention, education, and clinical delivery of general dental treatment.

Services include:

» Dental examination, periodic and emergency

» Preventive services, such as oral health and nutrition counseling, cleanings, sealants and more

» Restorations and routine oral surgery, including removal of most wisdom teeth

» Services for limited root canal therapy, crowns, bridges, and dentures are available in the hospital

The Dental staff continue to provide routine dental care in the NSB village clinics.
The SSMH Eye Clinic is open to all communities across the Arctic Slope. The clinic is staffed by one optometrist, two opticians, and one technician with the goal of providing quality services and products.

Services include:

» Comprehensive eye exams, which include screening and treatment for eye diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetes-related eye problems

» Refraction for glasses

» Contact lens fitting, ordering and management

» Eye disease evaluations and treatment or referrals

» Consultation, pre and post-surgical care for cataract and refractive surgery (LASIK)

» Glasses ordering, repairs and adjustments (outside prescriptions welcome)

Special testing equipment such as the Humphrey Visual Field, Fundus Photography, and Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) allows monitoring of diseases such as glaucoma, macular changes from hydroxychloroquine toxicity, and diabetic retinopathy locally.

The addition of an in-house edger allows a range of single vision eyeglass orders to be completed on site. This equipment greatly reduces the turnaround time for delivering eyeglasses to patients. Glasses are often able to be produced within a day or two, rather than a 2-3 week wait.
LABORATORY SERVICES

COVID-19 Testing

SSMH offers two (2) methods for COVID-19 testing: rapid test and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. The rapid test is conducted using the Abbott ID NOW machine. This is a relatively new technology that produces results within one (1) hour. A PCR test takes 4-7 days to yield results because the sample is shipped off slope for processing. The PCR test is more accurate and is provided as a confirmatory test with the rapid test. For every rapid test collected by SSMH, a confirmatory PCR sample is also collected.

The Cepheid GeneXpert PCR testing device was activated in September of 2020. The machine allows for in-house PCR testing for COVID-19 as long as testing kits remain available. The primary use of the Cepheid tests is for emergency room patients, inpatient admissions, medevac transfers and village testing.
Ultra-cold Freezer

In preparation for receiving COVID-19 vaccines, SSMH purchased an ultra-cold freezer to properly store the Pfizer BioNTech vaccines. The vaccine has to be stored at temperatures ranging from (-112°F to -76°F) until they expire. The team at Span Alaska Transportation took extraordinary action to repack and prepare the special refrigeration unit to be shipped on a cargo-specific airplane. The Span Alaska team coordinated with Alaska Air Forwarding to ensure it was on site before the first COVID-19 vaccines arrived at SSMH.

COVID-19 Vaccines

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for COVID-19 vaccines, which have been shown to be safe and effective. SSMH received its first shipment of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine on December 16, and began vaccinating our front-line staff. This vaccine requires 2 doses at least 3 weeks (21 days) apart.
Bed Expansion

When the COVID-19 public health emergency was declared, early on SSMH temporarily increased bed capacity in anticipation of a surge and to accommodate patients needing general admission to the hospital from a 10-bed facility to an emergency bed capacity of more than 45 beds.

Enhanced Air Flow and Air Quality

Negative pressure care spaces mean having a room or unit where the infected air is rerouted, away from other patients and hospital staff. A negative pressure room is particularly crucial when something like COVID-19 strikes. With our negative pressure care spaces, we maintained the isolation units’ regular operation and relieved the medical personnel’s anxiety while treating patients. SSMH built the capacity to expand negative pressure care spaces from the original five to 35 care spaces.

In addition to negative pressure care spaces, there are air purification units throughout SSMH and at the Aimaagvik Assisted Living Home. Continuous Air and Surface Pathogen Reduction (CASPR) technology reduces the level of clinically relevant pathogens from the air and on surfaces. CASPR’s photocatalytic converter uses humidity in the air to generate a low concentration of gaseous oxidizing molecules like H2O2 (hydrogen peroxide) to continually clean the air and surfaces in the environment. CASPR’s technology has been proven in laboratory testing to be highly effective at reducing pathogens by more than 99.9%.
SCREENING FOR LIFE

The Screening for Life (SFL) Program is responsible for the management of Centers for Disease Control (CDC) funds for breast and cervical cancer screening as well as funds from the Indian Health Services for diabetes treatment and prevention. The program also provides for non-grant covered colorectal screenings. The main objective is to reduce the incidence of breast, cervical and colorectal cancers for people of the Arctic Slope by providing access to life-saving, early detection screening services like pap smears, mammograms, and colonoscopies. SFL also provides diabetes education and prevention services. SFL offers year-round breast and cervical cancer screenings and colorectal cancer screenings via scheduled colonoscopy clinics and FIT testing to the residents of Utqiaġvik, Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay, and Wainwright.

» Sixty nine (69) colonoscopies were performed. Forty four (44) of these had polyps and/or areas suspicious for cancer removed/biopsied during the procedures. This represents an abnormality rate of 64% in our patient population, which reflects the extremely high rate of colorectal polyps and cancer seen in Alaska Native people.

» Three hundred thirty five (335) mammograms were performed. Out of these, eighteen (18) were abnormal. One (1) case of breast cancer was identified with treatment initiated.

» Two hundred six (206) pap smears were performed for cervical cancer screening. Precancerous changes were detected in four (4) of these screenings.

» One hundred fifty three (153) Human Papillomavirus (HPV) tests were performed. Twenty three (23) of these tests were positive, which initiated treatment to prevent cervical cancer. HPV is a common sexually transmitted infection that increases risk for cervical cancer.

Girls Night In

In recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, not only did the lights under the hospital building illuminate a pink glow, ASNA Screening for Life hosted the 4th annual ‘Girl’s Night In’ event to engage and involve the community in the fight against breast and cervical cancer.
The SSMH Physical Therapy Department is staffed with three physical therapists, a physical therapist assistant, and two physical therapist technicians. The PT department is here to assist patients of all ages, from infants to elders, in healing most ailments or injuries. We treat a variety of conditions, including chronic pain, musculoskeletal disorders, post-surgical, and neurological conditions. Services involve outpatient, inpatient, and “swing-bed”, which allows a patient to stay in the hospital and get physical therapy while recovering from an illness or surgery, such as total knee replacement.

In response to the pandemic and doing our part to mitigate the spread of the virus, and to continue serving the physical therapy needs across the Arctic Slope, SSMH physical therapy implemented telehealth to offer care to patients who were unable to come to the hospital. Physical therapy also expanded services to the NSB village clinics to reduce patient travel and see them closer to home.
MEDICAL IMAGING

The Medical Imaging Department produces diagnostic studies ordered by SSMH providers and are submitted for interpretation by Radiologists at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) in Anchorage.

Imaging staff are responsible for performing a variety of specialized tasks involved in the performance of Computed Tomography (CT), Radiographic, Mammographic, and Ultrasound exams utilizing radiation and ultrasound, while adhering to patient safety protocols. The Medical Imaging department consists of Director of Medical Imaging, Mammographic/Radiologic Technologist, CT/Radiologic Technologists, and Sonographers.

Equipment Upgrade: 128-Slice Computed Tomography (CT) Scanner

From the previous CT scanner, SSMH upgraded from 16 slices to 128 slices, which provides a greater level of detail on all CT scans. It makes the scan time faster. For example, abdominal CT scans can now be completed in 3-4 seconds instead of 10-15 seconds. It also gives us the capability to image hearts. SSMH Imaging Department will introduce Calcium Scoring and Coronary Artery CTA exams later this year. This will enable our patients to receive more cardiac care at SSMH. The Coronary Artery CTA’s can reduce the need for patients to have Cardiac Catheterizations, which is an invasive procedure. The Calcium Scoring will identify blocked arteries and predict patients risk for a heart attack.
Village Health Services

As the only critical access hospital in the Arctic Slope region, SSMH providers offer medical oversight and preceptorship training for the North Slope Borough (NSB) Community Health Aide Program (CHAP). CHAPs are often the only primary care providers serving vital roles in the health and well-being of our residents.

Even with quarantine and testing restrictions, SSMH medical providers made forty-nine (49) village clinic visits to provide healthcare in our remote communities. These medical services include Podiatry, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Family Medicine, and Pediatrics.

Several new hires increased the long-term goals on clinical care and services SSMH provides with the addition of a: Cardiologist, Pulmonologist, Endocrinologist, and Obstetrics & Gynecologist.

Rapid Response Teams

SSMH deployed Rapid Response Teams to deliver COVID-19 testing and vaccines to Arctic Slope villages. These teams provide support when covid-19 testing is needed to identify a potential outbreak, and to offer the COVID-19 vaccines. The Rapid Response Team consisted of a group of patient care technicians, nurses, and medical providers.
**Village Service Expansion: X-ray Machines**

Aligned with our goals to provide the village patients better access to quality healthcare, ASNA purchased portable x-ray machines and installed them in the North Slope Borough (NSB) Village Health Clinics. These machines are an extension of the services provided by SSMH Medical Imaging Department for the village clinics in the ASNA medical service area.

The SSMH Medical Imaging staff are continually working with the NSB CHAPs to ensure adequate training is completed both in-house and on-site in the NSB Health Clinics. Having this diagnostic equipment in the villages is one step closer for patients receiving care closer to home. Screenings are scheduled by referral only from SSMH medical providers.

Quyanaqpak to the NSB CHAP clinic staff for partnering with SSMH to expand coordination of patient care services.
SPECIALTY CLINICS

Specialty Clinics saw 1241 patients in 54 field clinics that included: Podiatry, Diabetes, Arthritis, ENT, Audiology, Nutrition, Sleep, EGD, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Colonoscopy, Cardiology, Pulmonology, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Hepatitis, Surgery, and the OB-GYN clinics. During the pandemic, the specialty clinic rooms were converted into inpatient rooms for patients who tested negative for COVID-19. Through coordination with primary care, fast track, and inpatient, the Specialty Clinics were able to run clinics with efficiency and little disruption to the patients admitted to the inpatient specialty clinic rooms.

TELEMEDICINE SERVICES

SSMH implemented and expanded telemedicine services for our communities. Patients are able to have a face to face visit with their doctor using their cell phone or computer. Patients can schedule an appointment through Zoom with their provider by calling 907-852-9380.
SOCIAL SERVICES

The Social Services Department administers programs for residents throughout the Arctic Slope, including job placement, higher education scholarships, adult vocational training, family preservation, Indian Child Welfare assistance, preventative behavioral health services, tribal childcare, elder care, and medical and burial assistance. Before the pandemic, Social Services staff collaborated with Diabetes Prevention to provide activity programs which included Baby & Me, Dance Classes, Zumba, Kids in the Kitchen, and Fitness Boot Camp.

Tribal Childcare Program

ASNA Social Services sponsors the Childcare Development Fund (CCDF) Tribal Childcare program for children ages 13 and under whose parents are employed and/or actively taking classes. The child must be enrolled or eligible to enroll into a federally recognized tribe. Eligibility is also based on family size and income. Currently, our staff are certified to train and certify the childcare providers for CPR/First aid in the villages.

With the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff continued to meet with families using telecommunications and video conferencing.
### Nursing
- Babies Delivered: 23
- Prenatal Care Expectant Families: 138
- Primary Care Visits: 8,618
- Inpatient Admissions: 655
- ER Visits: 8,440
- Specialty Clinics Offered: 54
- Swing Bed Days: 265

### Dental
- Dental Patient Visits: 6,190
- Dental Procedures: 24,189
- Sealants/Preventative Resin: 3,856
- Fluoride Treatments: 3,014

### Imaging
- Dexa: 158
- X-Ray: 2,823
- CT Scans: 1,143
- Mammograms: 353
- Ultrasounds: 933
- Low Dose CT: 70

### Midnight Sun Coffee Shop
- Transactions: 27,027
Social Services
Families served for CCDF Program: 9
Average children served monthly: 17
Family Preservation/Food Assistance served: 128

Lab
Chemistry test and panels: 20,446
Urine assays and panels: 4,412
Hematology assays and panels: 6,166
Transfusion Services test and panels: 112
Microbiology procedure: 1,639
Send Out procedures: 13,084
Specialty test (PCR Strep A & B): 4,480
POC test and panels: 3,415
Cepheid tests: 1,702

COVID-19 Numbers (through December 31, 2020)
COVID-19 Cases: 758
SSMH Hospitalizations: 32
Resident Deaths: 3
COVID-19 Tests: 24,939
RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

ASNA Staff Recognitions

ASNA would like to recognize the following employees for their dedication and service:

5 YEARS  Nicole Whiskey / Charles Edwardsen / Dr. Alanna Small / Susan Miklavcic / Richard Hall / Fred Miller / Richard Hennessy / Helen Okpik / Dr. Kohhei Nakagawa / Muimui Tuai / Michelle Thomas / Mabel Smith / Darlene Frantz / Thomas Elkins
10 YEARS  Cynthia Nethercott / Keith Nosbisch / Taylor Vinas / Clyde Casilla / Kalaponi Uluave / Rosemarie Galang / Leila Valencia / Elsa Gomez
15 YEARS  Hermilina Romero / Luz Lelis

Healthcare Heroes

In addition to service awards, for the first year ever, an award to show appreciation for the hardworking healthcare workers was created. During this global health crisis, hospitals and healthcare systems are doing everything they can to care for their patients and communities. SSMH depends on our Healthcare Heroes serving on the front lines—physicians, nurses, pharmacy, imaging, laboratory, patient registration, environmental services, dietary services, social services and clinical administrative support staff. Healthcare delivery is a demanding profession in the best of times; the COVID-19 pandemic stretches us even further. Delivering healthcare requires exceptional personal strength, competence, and character; amidst this pandemic, ASNA would like to recognize individuals that are serving our communities during this difficult time.

Nagliktuutigñiq — Compassion Award
Physician, Dr. Kohhei Nakagawa
Chief Nursing Officer, Denise Irizarry
Physician, Dr. Alanna Small

Paammaa̦giiñiq — Cooperation Award
Dental Hygienist, Amanda Stein

Congratulations and Quyanaqpak to all our recipients in 2020!
The ASNA Employee of the Year Award is a special recognition for the employee who represents ASNA’s mission, vision, and the guiding principles of the Iñupiat Values.

In 2020 ASNA received the most nominations it has ever had since the reintroduction of the award in 2014. Kris Elkins, Dietary Services Manager, has been selected as ASNA’s 2020 Employee of the Year.

One nominator described Ms. Elkins as “the backbone of the organization who goes above and beyond, not only for the ASNA/SSMH staff but for the patients as well.”

Since joining the ASNA team in 2013, her hard-work, dedication, and leadership has served as an inspiration to others around her. Her service is dutifully appreciated with this special recognition. Congratulations Kris!

Kris joins a distinguished list of individuals who have received Employee of the Year Honors since its reintroduction in 2014.

» 2020 Kris Elkins
» 2019 Amber Leavitt-Hopson
» 2018 Becky Andrew
» 2017 Hermie Romero
» 2016 Cynthia Nethercott
» 2015 Dr. Joan Gaela
» 2014 Audrey Saganna
Patient Safety Award

Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is a unified association providing effective statewide leadership to address health care delivery challenges affecting all Alaskans. The ASHNHA awards program is a project initiated by the Patient Safety Committee, which works on behalf of Alaska hospitals and nursing homes to improve patient safety.

For the 2020 award “Innovation in Patient Safety and Quality,” SSMH was selected as the winner in the ‘small hospital’ category following the nomination and review of the Nursing Services Department. The award recognizes hospitals and nursing homes that have developed and implemented an innovative patient safety and quality process, project, or program with measurably improved outcomes.

Please join us in congratulating SSMH nursing leadership, Chief Nursing Officer Denise Irizarry and our exemplary team for this incredible honor.
The Daisy Award Quarterly Nominees

The Daisy Award is a nation-wide program that recognizes nursing excellence and the compassionate care given by nurses every day. Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital is proud to be a Daisy Award hospital to honor the extraordinary work nurses do for patients and their families.

Daisy Award 1st Quarter Nominee, Julie Allen, RN

Julie Allen, RN, joined the ASNA team in February of last year and has already left an impression on the community. With numerous nomination forms submitted by her patients, it is evident Julie is caring, respectful and generous. One patient described their experience as the “best ever, made better because of nurse Julie.” Congratulations Julie!

Daisy Award 2nd Quarter Nominee, Barry Allen, RN

Barry’s hard work, patient dedication, and compassion are reoccurring themes in his nominations. Always ready to comfort his patients with a warm smile and a kind spirit. One patient expressed “every visit with Barry is always an amazing visit. He is quick to show he genuinely cares.” Congratulations on the nomination Barry!

Daisy Award 3rd Quarter Nominee, Leslie Friedlob, RN

Leslie Friedlob, RN, has been described as confident, respectful, and knowledgeable by her patients. Leslie’s energetic and upbeat approach offers a welcoming atmosphere. As her nominations state, “Leslie providing exemplary care is more than just a job. She gives 110% to the treatment, care and comfort of her patients.” Congratulations Leslie!

Daisy Award 4th Quarter Nominee, Dwelber (Dee) Fletcher, RN

Dee Fletcher, RN, has been described as dependable, knowledgeable and helpful by her peers and patients alike. Dee helps train staff, clean/disinfect the ambulance bay, comforts patients and their family, assists in the Emergency Department and helps delivers babies in the Labor and Delivery unit.

The selection of the 2020 Annual Daisy Award Winner will be held during National Nurses week in the month of May 2021.
SSMH Sunshine Award Quarterly Nominees

The Sunshine Award recognizes the care team that supports nursing staff and works closely with them to provide patients with the compassion and care they need. The Samuel Simmonds Sunshine Award is dedicated to non-nursing caregivers, including patient care technicians and other vital team members.

Sunshine Award 1st Quarter Nominee, Daniel Glenn

Daniel Glenn, Respiratory Therapist, can be described as a team player who is very attentive, knowledgeable, and pleasant. Nominated by his peers and patients alike, Daniel’s ceaseless devotion to patient care is admirational. He routinely offers his help to others voluntarily and is quick to respond when needed. “Daniel is a great asset to the team, we do appreciate him,” —Staff. Congratulations Daniel!

Sunshine Award 2nd Quarter Nominee, Kayla Young

Kayla Young can be described as caring, resourceful, and willing to go beyond the call of duty in service to her patient’s welfare. “I am grateful for her. She is definitely an asset to the community,” a patient recalled. Keep up the good work, and congratulations on the well-deserved honor Kayla!

Sunshine Award 3rd Quarter Nominee, Nancy Barlow

Nancy’s multiple nominations makes it clear why she was selected. One patient recalled “…It was the best Doctor visit I had in my life! And I’m 65 years old!! I’m serious.” Nancy is thoughtful and professional when it comes to the health and welfare of her patients. Congratulations Nancy!

Sunshine Award 4th Quarter Nominee, Sarah Hopson

Sarah’s nomination is a testament to her incredible caring nature, empathy, patience and kindness. One patient recalled “She has such a beautiful heart, and helped me every step of the way.” This is the second time Sarah has been nominated, in 2019 she was selected by her peers as the 2019 Sunshine Award Winner.
GROWING OUR OWN

Guy Okakok, Sr. Leadership Scholarship Awardees

ASNA is proud to announce the recipients of the 2020 Guy Okakok, Sr. Leadership Award: Jenessa Oviok and Paige LaFountain.

Jenessa is from Utqiaġvik, Alaska. She is the daughter of Roberta Oviok, grand-daughter of Samantha Ruth Leavitt and Morris Oviok. She is pursuing her undergraduate degree in Psychology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Paige’s lineage from her mother’s side is from Utqiaġvik. She is the daughter of Charlene and Dale LaFountain, grand-daughter of Bertha Stalker Jennings and Daniel Lowe. She is pursuing her undergraduate degree in Exercise Science at Linfield College in Oregon.

The Guy Okakok, Sr. Leadership Award was established in 2015 in recognition of ASNA’s 50th Anniversary. It was named after one of the ASNA founders, Guy Okakok, Sr. who championed the rights of Alaska Natives. The purpose of the award is to provide academic scholarships to eligible North Slope tribal members who are interested in post-secondary health care, social services, or health-related certificate programs. Scholarship awardees receive a one-time issuance of $2,500 per semester or $5,000 per academic year, based on financial need.
Spotlight on Homegrown Talent

Dr. Angela C. Smith, PharmD, is from Utqiaġvik, Alaska. She returned back home in August of 2020. She is the granddaughter of Rex and Leona Okakok and the great granddaughter of the late Samuel Simmonds and Guy Okakok. Angela is currently a Pharmacist and works with Primary Care, Inpatient, ER and Outpatient Pharmacy services to the villages. She is passionate about patient education and medication safety. She is proud to work for ASNA and grateful for the opportunity to provide her clinical skills at home. She earned her Bachelor’s of Science in Technical Management in 2008. Prior to pharmacy school, she attended Central Arkansas University for her Pre-Pharmacy requirements. There she participated in Neuroscience research, she held the position of Pre-med club President and Teachers Assistant to the Dean of Chemistry. She earned her Doctorate of Pharmacy in 2019 from South University in Columbia, South Carolina.
PHLEBOTOMY CERTIFICATION

Fourteen patient care technicians sat for and passed the National Certified Phlebotomy Technicians examination. Phlebotomists are essential team members at hospitals and diagnostic laboratories. They are responsible for drawing blood from patients, performing basic point of care testing such as blood glucose levels, and preparing blood, urine, and other specimens for testing. Congratulations to our Certified Phlebotomy Technicians!

Jordan Ahgeak
Jason Anievas
Nancy Barlow
Melody Burnett
Sarah Hopson
Dawson Irizarry
Marty Lucas
Cindy Nethercott
Susie Procìw
Mikky Rabson
Camron Toledo
Vincente Vargas
Fe’ao Vunipola
Kayla Young
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

ASNA is grateful for the partnership with the North Slope Borough. Thank you to all the Emergency Management Services (EMS) staff and volunteers, Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) staff, Search & Rescue, Public Health Nursing staff, and the Incident Management Team in our region.

AIMAAĞVIK ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES

Aimaaġvik Assisted Living is a 12-bed facility that provides 24-hour care and assistance to elders who reside there. The Aimaaġvik staff assist with the elders’ activities of daily living, provide opportunities for onsite and offsite group and individual activities, coordinate healthcare and provide routine onsite well visits from the SSMH healthcare providers. ASNA manages the Aimaaġvik Assisted Living under contract with the North Slope Borough (NSB).

MEDICAL TRAVEL AND FUNERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MTFA)

Some of the most difficult decisions to make in healthcare involve how to pay to access the services you need and where to get help when someone we love passes on. The Medical Travel and Funeral Assistance Program supports the traditional Iñupiat values of compassion, cooperation, and love and respect for one another.

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) and North Slope Borough (NSB) have granted funds to Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) to manage the MTFA Program. MTFA provides aid to ASRC shareholders and residents of the North Slope Borough in medical or funeral crisis when no other alternative funds are available to pay for such services.

The Medical Travel and Funeral Assistance (MTFA) program serves the communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiaġvik and Wainwright.
DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM

The SSMH Diabetes program in conjunction with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) hosts a Diabetes Clinic at SSMH. The clinic offers services from a medical provider, nurse practitioner, dietician, pharmacist, podiatrist, diabetes educator, and physical therapist. This clinic is offered quarterly in January, April, July and October with an effort to ensure that all of our diabetic patients receive the best possible care.

Family Fun Day

SSMH Diabetes and Prevention Program held its 8th annual Family Fun Day event on Saturday, February 29. The event drew over 300 attendees and volunteers to Ipalook Elementary for five hours of fun and education.

The day started with a Fun Run/Walk around the school’s hallways where participants were given step counters to record the day’s progress. To highlight the value of traditional foods, Alaska chef, Robert Kineen, cooked up reindeer pho, moose chili, and sheefish curry with help from ASNA Dietary Manager Kris Elkins and her dietary services staff.

Kids enjoyed the video game Just Dance in the library, scooter riding in the C Wing, and a wide array of carnival games in the gymnasium. Smoothie Bikes were in constant motion—except when they had to be temporarily shut down for over-heating. A photo booth station commemorating the wonderful event printed photos for attendees. Nursing staff held hands-on exhibits on how to treat and dress a flesh wound. We brought up the Alaska Fire Chaplains with two crisis dogs; they provided stuffed animals and small goodies for the children, and the dogs offered anxiety relief and support to participants.

A very special thanks to our Sponsors and Volunteers for making this year’s Family Fun Day a huge success!
Rethink Your Drink!

Made possible through the ASNA Diabetes Prevention grant funds, two Elkay water bottle filling stations were purchased for every North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) school across the Arctic Slope region. This effort is in association with the ASNA “Rethink your Drink” campaign to encourage healthy choices for our youth and the communities.

SAMUEL SIMMONDS DAY

In January 2020, ASNA hosted a celebration in honor of the late Reverend Samuel Simmonds. Simmonds was one of the original founders of ASNA and a devoted advocate for the health and well-being of the people of the Arctic Slope.

Opportunities to learn about preventative health services and healthy activities were provided to over 100 participants in the main lobby of SSMH and gifts to the family were provided. Screening for Life, Social Services, Diabetes Prevention and the North Slope Borough Prevention staff shared information with the public.
COVID-19 PREVENTION

Universal Masking

Protecting our patients, visitors and staff is our top priority when providing quality healthcare. Universal masking is a practice implemented by ASNA, that requires all staff and visitors to wear face coverings while at any of the ASNA facilities.

COVID-19 Testing / Alaska Airlines / NSB Transit Station

COVID-19 testing became crucial in the early days of the pandemic. In an effort to further prevent and protect our communities from exposure to COVID-19, ASNA administration contacted the Alaska Airlines administration to propose a partnership to offer testing for travelers arriving into the community. Initially a mobile testing facility was set-up outside the terminal. This increased the accessibility of testing for the community and reduced the potential for transmission of the virus by detecting it upon arrival. In the Fall of 2020, North Slope Borough (NSB) agreed to allow ASNA to transform the old NSB Transit Center into a COVID-19 testing center and ASNA continues to manage testing using the facility. Nursing Services continues to be the backbone of our crisis response. Patient care technicians and nurses staffed and supported all aspects of COVID-19 testing.

Atqasuk Mini Health Fair

As a part of COVID-19 prevention and testing at the request of the community, ASNA traveled to Atqasuk to host a mini health fair. Diabetes Prevention, Screening for Life, and Social Services staff provided educational and program outreach to the community. ASNA giveaways and door prizes were available to all the participants. Quyanaqpak to those who participated.
A morgue is a place where human bodies are kept for safety and preservation until the burial service. The new morgue space at the old hospital facility has increased capacity as well as space for families to prepare their loved ones in an appropriate and private setting. The new morgue capacity is eight chambers, with two additional chambers at Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital.

The Title V construction project agreement was originally authorized by the Board of Directors in a resolution passed in 2018. ASNA President/CEO Monnin continues the four-phase project agreement with Indian Health Service (IHS), Division of Facilities Planning and Construction to fund housing for essential staff who are employed at the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital. We are pleased to see the IHS is honoring their commitment to supporting healthcare in our region by providing the funding for these new living quarters.

ASNA has partnered with Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) / Builder’s Choice to construct the staff living quarters. In 2020, the first multi-family building opened and consists of seventeen (17) housing units. The second multi-family building consists of sixteen (16) units and opened for occupancy in early 2021.

The ASNA staff living quarters expects to achieve Gold level certification using the LEED for Homes Mid-Rise program. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. LEED Gold for the new staff living quarters means:

- Minimized construction waste — used a modular building style
- Water conservation — Installed high-efficiency fixtures and appliances
- Healthy indoor environment — used low VOC paints and an effective ventilation system
**SALUMMAKSAQTA! — Let’s Clean Up!**

The City of Utqiaġvik declared July 10 as “City-Wide Cleanup Day.” In partnership with this declaration ASNA encouraged all employees to take part in a voluntary campus cleanup. Participants were rewarded with a coffee voucher or a meal voucher.

Thanks to our volunteers, in 2 hours of work, over 25 bags of trash were collected around the ASNA facilities.
Ukpiqqutiqaqniq :: SPIRITUALITY ::

IN REMEMBRANCE

We know the power of prayer. We are a spiritual people.
IN REMEMBRANCE OF DR. JOANNE ROEHR

ASNA would like to remember a beloved employee, Dr. Joanne Roehr. A much loved friend, coworker, and devoted member of the SSMH Medical Staff, Dr. Roehr continued to serve our region, even in the face of her illness, delivering babies, and helping many families until October 2019. Ultimately, Joanne passed away on December 15, 2020. We send our sympathies to her family and friends as well as our thanks for all she did to help our people.
Quyanaq!

As we reflect on the resilience of our organization in 2020, we extend our heartfelt quyanaqpak to those who made it possible. It is because of the leadership of our board of directors, administration, hospital administration, physicians, nurses, and support staff that we are able to ensure the people of the Arctic Slope are healthy and content.

We are thankful to the tribal councils for their support: Naqsraqmiut Tribal Council, Native Village of Atqasuk, Native Village of Barrow, Native Village of Kaktovik, Native Village of Nuiqsut, Native Village of Point Hope, Native Village of Point Lay, and Wainwright Traditional Council. In addition, thank you to North Slope Borough, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Arctic Slope Community Foundation, First Nations Development Institute, SKW Eskimos Inc., North Slope Borough School District, Ilisaġvik College, Samaritan’s Purse, Subway, Span Alaska, and individual community members for donating cloth face masks and mask ear savers and our community partners in this worldwide pandemic. We look forward to our continued success in 2021.
## INCOME STATEMENT

### Operating Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant and contract revenue</td>
<td>$46,886,191</td>
<td>47,915,892</td>
<td>44,478,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient service revenue, net</td>
<td>42,860,074</td>
<td>31,576,348</td>
<td>31,953,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,004,882</td>
<td>1,119,528</td>
<td>1,051,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</strong></td>
<td><strong>90,751,147</strong></td>
<td><strong>80,611,768</strong></td>
<td><strong>77,483,468</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Operating Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and fringe benefits</td>
<td>51,160,464</td>
<td>48,768,605</td>
<td>42,521,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual and professional services</td>
<td>10,034,403</td>
<td>9,272,946</td>
<td>9,111,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>7,578,062</td>
<td>6,728,545</td>
<td>7,176,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>6,846,632</td>
<td>6,616,048</td>
<td>5,243,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct assistance payments to individuals</td>
<td>2,681,383</td>
<td>3,642,263</td>
<td>3,751,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and per diem</td>
<td>943,419</td>
<td>1,816,177</td>
<td>1,840,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6,180,564</td>
<td>6,783,922</td>
<td>6,504,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>85,424,927</strong></td>
<td><strong>83,628,506</strong></td>
<td><strong>76,150,480</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Operating Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPERATING INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,326,220</strong></td>
<td><strong>(3,016,738)</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,332,988</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Non-operating Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nonoperating grant revenue</td>
<td>5,745,985</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>1,871,367</td>
<td>1,455,659</td>
<td>1,603,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest expense</td>
<td>(118,689)</td>
<td>(158,024)</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain (loss) on sale of capital assets</td>
<td>(57,746)</td>
<td>53,230</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital contributions</td>
<td>2,117,143</td>
<td>9,973,939</td>
<td>2,201,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,884,280</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,308,066</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,137,935</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net position at beginning of year</td>
<td>217,696,392</td>
<td>209,388,326</td>
<td>204,250,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR</strong></td>
<td><strong>$232,580,672</strong></td>
<td><strong>217,696,392</strong></td>
<td><strong>209,388,326</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## BALANCE SHEET

### ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$33,068,944</td>
<td>24,987,565</td>
<td>21,652,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>39,718,924</td>
<td>32,480,689</td>
<td>31,027,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation</td>
<td>186,615,919</td>
<td>176,743,342</td>
<td>165,349,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$259,403,787</strong></td>
<td><strong>234,211,596</strong></td>
<td><strong>218,029,426</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### LIABILITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>26,823,115</td>
<td>16,515,204</td>
<td>8,641,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$232,580,672</strong></td>
<td><strong>217,696,392</strong></td>
<td><strong>209,388,326</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NET POSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net investment in capital assets</td>
<td>183,858,869</td>
<td>174,515,423</td>
<td>164,283,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>48,721,803</td>
<td>43,180,969</td>
<td>45,104,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NET POSITION</strong></td>
<td><strong>$232,580,672</strong></td>
<td><strong>217,696,392</strong></td>
<td><strong>209,388,326</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>