

Assoc. of Regional Health Directors Meeting

Mr. Dennis Tiepleman, as chairman, pounded the gavel calling the meeting to order of the ARHD at the AFN's conference room January 24, 1975.

Among the items discussed were: The transfer of the Community Health Service Grant which supports the Regional Health Corporation through AFN, Inc.; to the National Health Service budget base; sponsorship of the National Health Service; the health corporations and the Health Affairs Division of AFN, Inc.; review of the National Health Planning and Resource Development Act of 1974; review of the proposed "Human Resources Development Act." Guests included:

Mr. Weatherly, Director, Office of Tele-Communications with the State of Alaska, Dr. William J. Bucknell, Commissioner of Health, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Dr. Tom Austin, Health Planning Specialist, Indian Health Service and others.

The Executive Director of the Regional Health entities included: Dr. Donald F. Nielson, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Mrs. Mary Craig, Director of the Health Department, Kodiak Island Native Health Authority, Mr. Dennis J. Tiepleman, Executive Director, Kotzebue Area Health Corporation, Miss Christine Kowalewski, Acting Director, North Slope Borough Health Corporation, Department, Mr. Caleb Pungowiwi, Executive Director of Norton Sound Health Corporation, Mr. Claude Demientieff, Director, Tanana Chiefs Health Authority, Mr. Alvin Ivanoff, Director, Yukon-Kuskokwim Corporation, and representatives from Southwestern Alaska Health Corporation and Copper River Native Association.

During business session, the

Association took the following actions: Approved the Health Affairs proposal for the Statewide Sponsorship of the National Health Service Corp.; Approval of the establishment of the Central Planning Unit in the Health Affairs Division; Deferred any action on the proposed bill entitled "Human Resources Development"; Approved the establishment of three Health Service Agencies in the State of Alaska under the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974.

In regards to the fiscal year 1976, starting August 1, 1975, Program Year, the Association approved the transfer of the Community Health Grant that supports the Regional Health Entities through AFN, Inc., to the Indian Health Service Grant from DHEW is unstable as future funding and is currently under question as to whether the Community Health Service will get its authority by Congress to function beyond June 30, 1975.

In addition, the Association addressed the development of the work program fiscal year 1976, and delved into what would constitute the administration of the program by contract with Indian Health Service.

Work program of the health corporation is anticipated to be completed by March 1, 1975, and subsequently submitted to Indian Health Service as a contract proposal. It is anticipated that upon submission of the contract proposals that it would take the headquarters 2 months to review before the contract would be ready for signatures.

The Association also approved to have the contract Management Course in April 14-18, 1975, in anticipation to administer the program under contract.

According to Mr. Carl Jack, Director, Health Affairs Division

of AFN, Inc., "The Association of Regional Directors at this meeting took some concrete action to insure continuation of the health program in the region in the future."

He stated, "The results of this transfer will stabilize future fundings of the Health Corporation as well as the Health Affairs Division so long as the Snyder Act is in effect, which gave authority to the Indian Health Service. The two million dollars plus will become part of the Indian Health Service budget base to be administered under contract between the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., and ISH at the Alaska Area Level."

He further stated that "The Health Corporation will be eligible to receive mandatory increases annually."

Addressing the other actions that were taken by the Association he stated that "with the approval of the Central Planning Unit and the approval of the National Service Corp. by the AFN, Inc., these two actions will set in motion the initial implementation of the Alaska Native Health Care Policy Statement which was adopted in principal during the last convention of AFN, Inc., and the Statewide Rural Health Conference held in Anchorage following the convention."

The establishment of the Regional Planning Units and the Central Planning Unit will enable the Regional Health Entities to develop the Comprehensive Regional Plan which shall result in a Comprehensive Statewide Plan for providing medical services throughout the State of Alaska.

The approval of the sponsorship of the National Health Service Corp. by AFN, Inc., will provide needed health professionals in Rural Alaska under the direction of the regional entities.