

## *RurAL CAP to Aid Villages—*

# **Assist on Alcohol Problems**

A new program for RurAL CAP has been initiated which will focus on providing assistance, training and intervention strategies to assist Native villages in defining and attempting to solve their alcoholism problems through education, and to gather statistical data on which to base future, planned, programmed efforts.

The regional director, with approval of the regional board, will hire an alcoholism counselor who will be given extensive training.

This person will do individual and family counseling and make referrals to the appropriate agencies when monetary or professional service needs exist, will be responsible for coordinating the community's activities as they relate to alcoholism and will act as a liaison between the helping agencies.

Programs are planned in Copper Center, Dillingham, Fort Yukon, Juneau, Kodiak, Kotzebue and Unalaska. RurAL CAP will provide the necessary financial monitoring and budget review of the programs.

The training course, conducted by the University of Alaska

at the Anchorage Community College, started June 5 and will finish June 25.

A follow-up session is planned for November or December, at which time the counselors will be more aware of the kind of help needed from the actual problems encountered and will implement their programs accordingly.

The agenda included the following topics as related to alcoholism: Concepts and attitudes, psychology, medical problems, the judicial system, national and international aspects, cultural aspects with emphasis on Alaska Native drinking patterns, problems in rural Alaska, overview of community treatment programs, identification and motivation, treatment process including outpatient services, home counseling and innovative treatment methods.

Interviewing with alcoholics, demonstration groups, field trips and movies were part of the program. Supportive services, measurement evaluation, program analysis, individual and group counseling and community organizations were also included.

Agencies contributing to the agenda were: Department of Health and Welfare, Alaska Native Medical Center, Anchorage Borough Health Department, Alaska Psychiatric Institute, Seward Skill Center, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Public Welfare, Anchorage; Bureau of Indian Affairs, Native Welcome Center, Alano Club, University of California Extension, Santa Cruz, California; Greater Anchorage Area CAA, Anchorage Alcohol Drug Research Center, Phoenix Club, COMPAS and the Salvation Army.

Speakers included Judge George Crawford, Municipal Court, Los Angeles, California and Judge Nora Guinn from Bethel.

Staff members from the University of Alaska; Anchorage Community College and RurAL CAP also addressed the group.

Those attending the training session were: Margaret Schultz from Kotzebue; Titus Peter, Fort Yukon, Charles DeWitt, Copper Center; Nina Andre, Dillingham; Ted Velanis, Kodiak; Emil Berikoff, Unalaska and Evelyn Meyers from Juneau.