

# Report of Third RurAL CAP Meet on March 20

The third meeting of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., Executive Committee was called to order on March 20th, 1970 in the RurAL CAP Central Office in Anchorage, by Chairman Marlene Johnson.

Also present were Lucien Poussard, Al Ketzler, Sigvald Strandberg, Byron Mallott, Walter Baldwin, Betty McCallum and Howard Scaman.

Mrs. McCallum, Director, Child Development, gave a brief report on Head Start activities. Miss Grace Agibinik was recently hired as secretary for Head Start and Mrs. Sophie Wirth was hired to fill the newly created position of Parent Involvement Coordinator.

Mrs. McCallum reported that the Parent Advisory Council will be meeting on April 1st in conjunction with the Career Development Committee to review a rough draft of next year's application.

This will be presented to the RurAL CAP Board of Directors at their May meeting.

Mr. Scaman, Assistant Director of Head Start reported that the State Operated Schools will assume full control of all Head Start programs in Alaska within a period of five years and also at that time, it is projected that the State will be operating pre-school programs in every rural village of Alaska.

Presently they are planning 9 to 15 pre-school programs and the legislature has lowered the age of eligible children to three years, so the State will be eligible to apply for federal funding.

RurAL CAP Head Start is applying for a grant which will at least double the present 42 Head Start programs for next year. On file at the present time are 84 formal applications for Head Start programs.

To insure that the present Head Start teachers will qualify under the State Operated Pre-School Program, a new license

requirement is being requested to change the requirements of certified teachers which is presently a four year Bachelor's Degree in education.

RurAL CAP Head Start is instead proposing a licensing requirement equivalent to an Associate of Arts Degree which would be a two year course with 24 college units.

Dr. Clifford Hartman, Commissioner of Education has asked for a committee to recommend licensing requirements.

Executive Director Byron Mallott reported that RurAL CAP has developed a planning grant designed to assist the Regional Development Corporations in program implementation.

Mr. Mallott stated that this proposal was developed due to the decision of the Northwest Region X not to fund a planning grant to the Alaska Training and Planning Center, and he added that ATAP will be phased out by the end of April.

Included in this plan will be the securing of approximately six VISTA Volunteers, experienced in planning development, who will be assigned and stationed within the regional development corporations.

Mr. Mallott further reported that the Western Community Action Training Inc., has reorganized and have changed their programs title to the Northwest Social Services Systems, Inc. Mr. Ernie

Brannon has been hired as their Training Supervisor for the Anchorage team.

Further, Mr. Bob Arnold will be Alaska's representative on their Board of Directors. Mr. Lucian Poussard requested that the Public Health Service be added to the list of "Other Agencies" included in this proposal.

Mr. Mallott also informed the Executive Committee that on April 13th, the RurAL CAP Central Office will be moving to 1020 I Street, Anchorage. RurAL CAP will be saving approximately \$3000 a year in rental fees at the new location.

He also reported that the Upper Yukon Development Corporation and the Prince William Sound-Copper Valley Development Corporation are developing VISTA sponsorship programs in their regions.

It is anticipated that several of the other regional corporations will request that OEO contract through them for the sponsorship of this program.

Mr. Mallott also advised the Committee that at a meeting of the Title IB Manpower Advisory Board, held in Juneau March 9th, it was voted that sponsorship of the Operation Mainstream program be contracted to the State Department of Labor.

RurAL CAP will be given a 30 day phase-out beginning April 1st.

In closing, Mr. Mallott advised the Committee that OEO agencies in Alaska and also the Alaska Federation of Natives have been meeting in connection with the recent development of OEO programs being administered by the State (called the Oklahoma Plan).

A letter is being drafted asking the Governor of Alaska what will be the results or effects on the OEO funded programs in Alaska under this new plan.

This letter will be jointly signed by the OEO programs in Alaska, and the Alaska Federation of Natives.