

Beverage Board To Meet With Alcohol Programs

By Dabney Cannelos

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC Board), at its public hearing Thursday January 8, agreed to work with such organizations as the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Office of the Department of Health and Social Services, The Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ANCADA), The Alaska Native regional health corporations, and the Salvation Army to develop a legislative package for the expansion of alcoholism prevention and rehabilitation programs.

The ABC Board agreed to work with the organizations at the urging of Ronald C. Mallott who submitted a letter on January 8 requesting that such action be taken.

In his letter, Mallott observed that the courts would like to sentence or confine convicted persons to alcoholic rehabilitation institutions such as the Studio Club but such confinement is often unattainable due to the limited space such programs can provide because of financial limitations.

In addition, Mallott stated that on a statewide basis alcoholism rehabilitation and prevention program development is financially restricted, forcing Native regional health corporations and ANCADA to deal with this problem in rural areas on a very limited basis, and even then utilizing more federal than state funds.

Mallott suggested that the Board work with the organizations to develop a legislative package that will appropriate

monies from the general fund equaling the amount received from alcoholism prevention programs.

"The state must revise its laws which currently hinder even limited solutions toward solving a major state problem," Mallott said.

At the public hearing January 8, Mallott also suggested that the Board seek to work with the Native community on alcoholism problems by asking Governor Hammond to appoint Patrick Anderson, an Anchorage attorney of Tlingit descent, to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Anderson is currently president of the newly formed Alaska Native Attorneys Association, chairman of the Alaska Native Caucus Criminal Justice Task Force and vice president of Bean's Cafe.