

# Organize Health Entity

The Koniag people formally organized a health department under Kodiak Area Native Association, KINHA, (Kodiak Island Native Health Authority), formally known as the Kodiak Area Native Association Health Board to be on health planning under the control of the people.

The two-day meeting took place in the Koniag Native Corporation in Kodiak on November, 1973. "KINHA" in Aleut means WHO.

KINHA delved into the initial fact-finding session in order to try to determine the total amount of dollars being expended on behalf of the Native people on Kodiak Island, as well as scope of service available.

The issues discussed in the two-day session was divided into three broad categories: 1) Local health and health-related resources; 2) Local IHS contracts and 3) Statewide health organizations.

A wide spectrum of health information was provided at the meeting and pretty well cut out the health authority's work load for some time to come.

The two-day meeting was well represented by all villages on Kodiak Island as well as Koniag Inc., and KANA representation.

Distinguished guests attending the meeting from out-of-town were: Carl Jack, director, Health Affairs Division AFN, Inc.; John Lee, area director, Alaska Area Native Health Service; Dr. Fortune, director, Anchorage service unit; Dr. Moorehead, area office; Ken Isaaks, administrator, Anchorage service unit and Roy Huhndorf, chief, Community Health Aide program.

Local representation included the Kodiak Island borough hospital, Island Medical Center, local pharmacist and dentist who discussed the scope of services and funding being received through Indian Health Service contracts.

The Community Health Service grant through the Health Affairs Division of AFN Inc., will provide health staff for the health authority who will begin addressing the health and health related needs of the Koniag people on Koniag Island.

One health authority will begin to look into contracting for health services for Koniag people.

KINHA board chairman stated, "It is time that we take a stand and become involved in health resources that are now available to our people, as well as those resources that have not been made available to our people in the past.