

Athabascan Directs Seminar

Volunteer women from the national organization of the North American Indian Women's Association are participating in a research-training seminar being held at Arizona State University, Tempe, August 15 - 17.

Mrs. Mary Jane Fate, a well-known Athabascan Indian of Fairbanks, is responsible for the Tempe, Arizona Seminar in her capacity as Project Director of a Federal contract on Special needs of Handicapped Indian Children and Indian Women's Problems. Mrs. Fate has set up a national project office in Fairbanks. The national staff, under the administration of Dr. Mildred Matthews, is conducting the Training Seminar to teach volunteer women how to gather data and document statistics about their available social services. Dr. Mim Dixon will be a special consultant in the use of an interview guide.

Abuse and neglect of children, physical abuse of women including rape, solo parenthood, malnutrition and other areas of physical and mental handicaps are to be recorded along with community attitudes in a national study which follows the Training Seminar. There is also to be a review of agencies providing social services to Indian communities as well as a gathering of information on the qualifications of persons who provide needed services. Georgianna Lincoln is the Project's Coordinator of Volunteers. Ms. Lincoln will be working directly with Indian women from reservations throughout the United States as well as women from Oklahoma and Alaska where the Indian/Native peoples do not generally live on reservations. Data collectors from Alaska in this national project will include Okalina Offt of Aleknagik, Audrey Armstrong of Anchorage and Lela Oman Gray of Nome.

Funding for this Indian women's research is through a contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Luzenia Morotta, a Chippewa Indian from Minnesota, is in the local Project office as Financial Manager.

Various Alaskan agencies and individual Alaskan women will be asked to participate in this national survey on handicapping conditions. Any information given will be confidential and no



Director of Tempe, Arizona seminar, Mary Jane Fate of Fairbanks.

—Photo By WILLIAM ARES

person's names will be used in the report. From data gathered a social service model will be established and a report recommending needed changes will be submitted to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington,

D.C. Mrs. Clare Jerdone is the Contract Officer's Representative and Mrs. Hildreth Venegas of Sisseton, South Dakota is the National President of the North American Indian Women's Association.