

Alaska Native Health Board plans village meeting Oct. 21

The Alaska Native Health Board is sponsoring a special one-day conference for Alaska Native villages Oct. 21, the day before the official start of the 1987 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention.

The "Village CAN DO Conference" will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Alaska Ballroom at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel.

The Alaska Native Health Board is asking every Alaska Native village to send at least one representative to this meeting. To save money, health board officials are encouraging villages to send one of their AFN Convention delegates in to Anchorage a day early to attend.

One of the issues that will be discussed will be the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, Public Law 99-570, which contains special sections to address substance abuse among Indians and Alaska Natives. Among its provisions:

- "Tribes" are assigned certain responsibilities and duties. In the case of Alaska, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service are interpreting "tribe" to mean each of the 196 Alaska Native villages in the state "with an enrolled membership of 1,500 or less."

- "Indian tribes" are to have the primary responsibility for protecting and ensuring the well-being of their members.

- Tribes are to pass a resolution to establish and empower a Tribal Coordinating Committee to write a Tribal Action Plan for the tribe that describes

how the tribes will better coordinate resources and be more directly involved in the fight to combat alcohol and drug abuse among its people.

- The BIA and IHS are to write a Local Action Plan for villages that fail to act.

Spokesmen for the Alaska Native Health Board believe it is important for villages to write their own plans.

Village representatives who attend the meeting will learn more about the new law and how it affects villages.
