

Alcoholism school opens Monday in Anchorage

Treatment issues for substance abusers in a multi-cultural society is the theme for the 1981 Annual School on Alcohol and Addiction Studies which opens Monday at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage. Included in this statewide

conference will be several workshops which will focus on multicultural issues in treatment. "Cultural Differences in Styles of Communication and Interaction" will be presented by Steve McNabb, an Anchorage-based consulting anthropologist. "Traditional Values and Culture in Treatment" will be the topic of a workshop by Pam Colorado, Office of Alcohol Programs, Indian Health Service in Albuquerque. Ernie Turner, director of the Seattle Indian Alcoholism Program will discuss the approach to alcoholism treatment used in this well-known program.

In addition to the workshops, Della Keats, traditional doctor from Kotzebue, will address the conference Tuesday, speaking on "Traditional Healing Methods."

More than 15 workshops and numerous keynote speakers have been planned for the May 4 - 7 Conference. Registration information is available from the Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies at 263-1801. Pre-registration is encouraged; however, registration will be taken at the Hotel Captain Cook beginning at 6:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday through Thursday at 8 a.m.

Dr. Steven Wolin of the Center for Family Research, George Washington University, will discuss family factors which may contribute to the recurrence of alcoholism in generations of families in his opening address to the school at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Hotel Captain Cook.

Dr. Wolin has studied the concept of the family's "identity" and the family rituals by which all families preserve and communicate that identity. He has studied groups of alcoholic families where drinking problems have recurred over generations, examining the impact of alcoholism on family ritual behaviors and other components of the family identity.

In his address, Dr. Wolin will discuss case examples documenting the impact of problem drinking on these rituals and suggest several strategies which families use to maintain and protect their rituals.

Dr. Wolin will also conduct several workshops during the 3½ day conference.