

# Native hospital needs study in progress

An in-depth study exploring various options available to the Indian Health Service (IHS) for obtaining a medical facility more suitable to their needs will be released in September.

Richard Wells, project director of Alaska Regional Systems Development Group, has compiled volumes of background information during the past six months. Preliminary reports indicate that the existing Alaska Native Medical Center, built in 1953, will be inadequate for meeting future health care needs.

The conclusions will reveal "four or five major options" available for either renovating or replacing the outdated facility, Wells said.

Wells was commissioned by the IHS, an arm of the Public Health Service, to produce a detailed feasibility study on the existing Native hospital and come up with viable alternatives for meeting the present and future needs of IHS.

The study is being carried out under a contract between IHS and Cook Inlet Native Association.