

ADOPTS ALCOHOLISM PROBLEM PROPOSAL

RurAL CAP to Assist In Attacking Problems Attributed to Alcoholism

A proposal to solve problems directly related to alcoholism within rural communities was unanimously adopted by the RurAL CAP Board at their February 4-5 meeting in Juneau.

The proposed program will focus on providing technical assistance and referral to other agencies that will assist communities in defining and attempting to solve their problems attributed to alcoholism.

Non-professional alcoholism counselors will be selected from within their communities, based on their familiarity with alcoholism and who are also bi-lingual.

The counselors will undergo an intensive two-week training session in Anchorage and Seward under the direction of the University of Alaska and the Alaska Skill Center.

The training will emphasize alcohol information; counseling and case management techniques for use in the villages the counselors will serve; evaluations of the counselors' personal attitudes toward abusive drinking and alcoholism; familiarization with

the nature of resources available for effective community alcohol prevention, treatment and education programs; and the facts and fantasies concerning alcohol and its use.

Upon completion of their training, the counselors will return to their villages where they will conduct personal and family counseling and will make case referrals to the appropriate agencies.

They will also be responsible for coordinating the communities activities as they relate to alcoholism and will work with other concerned agencies to assist them in becoming aware of and responsive to the needs and attitudes of the people they are serving.

The counselors will assist in developing community resources which can more adequately and realistically cope with the problems of the alcoholic and his family.

In essence, the counselors will be community resource people and leaders in dealing with alcoholism.