

Now Nine—

RACAP Approves Regional Centers

The board of directors of Rural Alaska Community Action Program gave approval last week to the establishment of regional action centers in Copper Valley, Tanana, Ft. Yukon and St. Marys', bringing to nine the number of such community centers.

Meeting in Anchorage Sept. 12, the board also adopted a resolution urging the governor of Alaska to activate a council to coordinate state, federal and private agencies, especially those agencies working toward the elimination of poverty.

The board indicated a willingness to cooperate with such a coordinating council.

Hugh Nicholls, deputy director for the Community Service Corps, recommended the four new sites for action centers and sought immediate initiation of the center in Copper Center since the building there is already available.

The action centers are part of the \$861,000 Community Service Corps. The program calls for establishment of 10 regional action centers in key, target areas of the state to promote coordinated social and economic development in those areas.

The five centers established earlier this year were in Nome, Kodiak, Bethel, Kotzebue and Juneau. The centers are responsible for carrying out many of the anti-poverty programs for their areas. All of the centers serve as job banks and information centers.

Special projects at the centers include a skin-sewing class at Nome, a child care center in Kodiak, a pre-maternal home in Bethel, a family repair shop under development in Kotzebue and a half-way house in Juneau.

Junior Ramos, area community developer representing

the Community Service Corps to the board, said the centers would be established in Tanana in October and November and in St. Mary's and Ft. Yukon in November and December.

In other action during the Sept. 12 meeting, the board adopted four general priorities to establish direction for the action agency's programming: manpower training and job development; child development and child care; community organization and development; and development and adjustment of rural youth.

Job development will include such programs as Operation Mainstream, New Careers, Work Experience, Job Corps, Manpower Development and Training, On-the-job training, basic adult education and high school equivalency programs.

Programs will also stress job development through economic development of the areas.

Child development includes such projects as Head Start, parent and child care centers, day care centers and all other programs aimed at helping disadvantaged children.

Community organization and development is being achieved primarily through the community action centers under the Community Service Corps.

The board has tentatively set their next meeting, the annual meeting of the board, for Sept. 23-25 at Sitka.