

Native Health conference to be held

"Our Health, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"

The Alaska Native Health Board, in conjunction with the AFN is sponsoring a two day Native Health Conference at the Sheraton Anchorage on October 21 and 22. The conference,

titled "Our Health, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," will feature a Health Fair, workshops, strategy and planning sessions and a banquet honoring Community Health Aides from each of the twelve regions in the state

The conference agenda will cover many discussion topics for health program administrators and health care providers (i.e. doctors, nurses and health aides), but the emphasis of this Statewide Native Health Conference is the health consumer: the recipients of Alaska's rural health care. The major focus will be on promoting health awareness through information-sharing workshops, screenings, and diagnostic testing, films and booths at the Conference Health Fair.

Many of the workshops will examine the various health care facilities and services available to rural and urban Natives in Alaska. State and village health services, health education, health research, and employment opportunities in health careers are some of those scheduled workshops. Other workshops like nutrition, mental health care, traditional medicine and healing, will explore the body, its functions and care, and the preventing of illness.

In addition to the workshops, there will be a screening and diagnostic center, also located in the Howard Rock Ballroom of the Anchorage Sheraton. Local and Statewide Health Agencies will be giving continual service to Convention-goers in the following: blood pressure, height and weight checks, tests for

diabetes, cancer, pulmonary functions and more.

The Alaska Native Health Board also has plans to feature

booth space for various health provider agencies to display and discuss their programs with visi-

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tors at the health fair. Health Corporations from Copper Center and the Yukon Kuskokwim regions plan to have a booth describing their dental programs. The North Slope Regional Corporation intends to sponsor a booth depicting their services for senior citizens and elderly. Among others, the Environmental Health Branch of the National Indian Health Service will have a construction display of types of water and sewer facilities used in rural Alaska.

The Health Conference will feature a film series covering a range of topics such as alcoholism, venereal disease, nutrition, stress, changing lifestyles, health careers, and the Community Health Aide.