

Health plan starts

Frank R. Peterson, President of the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) announced that a Regional Five Year Health Plan for Fiscal Years 1981 through 1985 was submitted to the Indian Health Service.

KANA was required to complete this plan to meet the requirements of Public Law 94-437 "The Indian Health Care Improvement Act".

According to Peterson, "this plan is the most comprehensive health plan ever completed for Kodiak Island". Factors included in the Plan are health status indicators, social concerns, cultural concerns, economic concerns, national health policy issues, State of Alaska Health Policy issues, and most importantly, the concerns of an Alaska Native resident of Kodiak Island whenever he becomes a patient in the health care system.

Peterson said that the plan was developed by using "the most recent state of the art in health planning techniques".

The plan places an emphasis on individual responsibility for health care and preventative health care. Increased delivery of care in the villages and the

development of a modest outpatient clinic in Kodiak to serve as an organizational base are the only changes proposed from the present system. Continued use of services from existing health care providers such as physicians, dentists, and the mental health center is part of the plan. Increased use of the Kodiak Island Hospital and a related reduction in referrals to Anchorage are proposed.

Staffing levels for various health care aspects were determined by using population and disease incidence data from Kodiak Island in a number of formulas developed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. These formulas are called the Resource Allocation Criteria (RAC). KANA's plan suggests a smaller manpower level than is justified by the RAC in all but a few areas such as the Community Health Aides in the Village.

The basic approach taken was to determine the resources required to provide the needed health care, reduce this figure by the resources currently provided in Kodiak and develop a plan to fill the "gap" between the two figures over the next five years.