

TCC secures medicare for Yukon Flats

Activities for the past two months have revolved primarily around trying to finalize the FY83 contract with the Indian Health Service (IHS). After much negotiation, TCC did receive a final contract late in the month of November.

Tanana Chiefs has also been successful in receiving Medicaid and Medicare certification for the Yukon Flats Health Center after an approximate six-month application process. We have implemented a fee schedule and hope to begin collection of private fees for the services provided at the Yukon Flats Health Center within the next 20 days.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference patient hostel is progressing smoothly. The building is well underway with the roof being completed just this week. Every effort is going to be made to open the facility on

April 1st to patients, expectant mothers and families of patients from the entire Tanana Chiefs Conference Region who must come to Fairbanks to receive medical services.

There has been broad support in the community of Fairbanks for this facility and many of the providers are expectantly awaiting its opening. We felt originally that the hostel would meet the need for several years in the future, however, revised estimates are that the hostel will be used at near capacity at the time it is opened and expansion may be necessary. We have planned for an expansion on the facil-

ity and adequate room is available on the site to expand should the need arise.

The five villages in the Tok Subregion have also approached the Tanana Chiefs once again with a request that consideration be given to transferring from the Anchorage Service Unit to the Interior Alaska Service Unit. TCC staff traveled to Tok and presented the impacts of this transfer to the Tok Subregional villages. Additional study will be undertaken and, hopefully, some final plan for transfer can be submitted to the Tanana Chiefs Conference Convention in March.

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