


KANA CHRs complete training

The KANA Health Department has continued at the high level of productivity established in FY82 in spite of the continued uncertainties about FY83 funding at both the State and Federal levels. The final figures indicate that 37,880 patient encounters were provided by the KANA health program during FY82. Obviously, the goal for FY83 is to do even better but funding realities may preclude an increase from being possible.

The good news is that all six village CHRs have completed the Alaska Native Training Institute Alcoholism Counselor I course and apparently will be certified by the State of Alaska. The bad news is that CHR continued funding remains questionable so these new counselors may soon not be working.

The shortage of hospital funds for Kodiak Island is the most immediate crisis for KANA and, unfortunately, there is no apparent relief in sight. The State of Alaska ap-



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parently will not help since they have been assured by IHS that no funding cuts to the regions have occurred since FY81.

Meanwhile, the Kodiak Island Hospital is aggressively pursuing collections in small claims court and causing a number of problems for Alaska Native individuals both in Kodiak and the villages.

A bright spot in the program is the initiation of village dental trips by the KANA dental staff. Two villages will have dental care provided in the village during the month of November and the remaining villages will receive visits during the spring of 1983. The dental program continues to be an outstanding addition to the relatively high intensity medical program.

One other good addition is the availability of the WIC program on Kodiak Island for the first time ever. KANA has been instrumental in getting these services delivered on Kodiak Island and the availability after a poor fishing year is a real positive note for those eligible for this program.

At this time, concern once again turns to the need for a unified approach to the State Legislature by the Alaska Native people to obtain funding for continuation of our hard-won health program. Some progress was made last year but a great deal of progress is needed this year if programs are really going to continue to provide much needed care to Alaska Natives.