

Input in Contracts—

Kodiak Health Meet

Wednesday night, January 15, may have been a bad time to get sick in Kodiak, depending on where you were. That evening, twenty health professionals met with the Executive Director of the Kodiak Area Native, Frank Peterson, and his health staff in the Koniag conference room.

The meeting was a step toward the Island's Native people's having input into the contracts Indian Health Service signs with the local hospital, pharmacy, physicians and dentists.

The first step was a meeting of the KANA Board of Directors with Indian Health Service representatives. Specifics of IHS programs affecting Kodiak Native people were discussed, as well as the contract health services, which in Kodiak amount to almost \$300,000. Information about the contracting process was also presented.

All over the state, Native regional health entities are forming to address themselves to the long-range goal of the "Alaska Native Health Care Policy Statement"—establish within the next 10 years Native ownership and management of the health care system serving Alaska Natives.

Health care professionals braving the slick roads and wet conditions to attend included John Shank, O.D.; Harry Brighton; Jeanne Berger, P.H.N.; Grechen Saupé, R.N.; Beth Ennis, P.H.N.; Betty Malay, P.H.N.; George Magnusen; Gary Eller; Knox Christie, DDS; John Eufemio, M.D.; Sister Josephine Patti, G.N.S.H.; Barbara Germino; Gregory Furin, DDS; Spencer Falcon, M.D.; Rud Wasson, M.D.; William McIver, PhD; Harold Sexton, M.D.; Barbara Busher, R.N.; Daniel Farrar, DDS; and a guest speaker from Anchorage, Eva M. Boyce, Director of Training Community Health Aide Program, Alaska Area Native Health Service.

KANA staff appreciate the turnout of health care providers at the meeting. One of the participants commented: "I am interested to see what happens when Native people have more control and I am encouraged that KANA's Executive Director kept

talking about keeping things local." (Dr. Eufemio)

The next step will be for the KANA Board of Directors to meet with health care providers to identify more specifically concerns about contracts so that KANA staff can follow up by inserting provisions in future contracts to alleviate all or at least some of these concerns.

Mr. Peterson said: "I am impressed with the turnout. The deliberations about the problems in general regarding the IHS-provider contracts were interesting. The KANA Board and staff have a serious responsibility on behalf of the Native recipients of health care on the island."

VA Spends More Than \$15 Million In the State

JUNEAU—During the past fiscal year the Veterans Administration spent more than \$15.5 million in Alaska for various veterans programs.

David A. Andrus, director of the VA regional office in Juneau, said the record-high expenditures included \$4,423,490 in compensation and pension benefits; \$6,007,122 in educational assistance; and \$978,416 in insurance and indemnities.

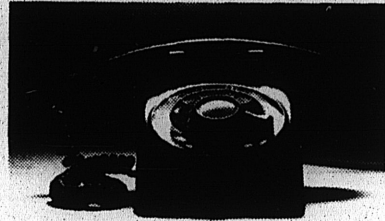
Andrus said the Anchorage area received the largest portion—\$5,116,721. Juneau was second with \$4,775,679, followed by Fairbanks with \$1,614,036.

Programs for Vietnamera veterans accounted for approximately 30% of VA's billion budget in 1974, according to the Juneau director. There are seven million Vietnam-era veterans and they constitute about 23% of the total U.S. veteran population of 29 million.

The VA expenditure breakdown for Alaska areas receiving portions of the total is:

Aleutian Island	\$ 142,613
Anchorage	5,116,721
Angoon	13,006
Barrow No. Slope	57,045
Bethel	130,748
Bristol Bay Bor.	29,093
Bristol Bay Div.	76,327
Cordova-McCarthy	97,775
Fairbanks	1,614,036
Kuskokwim	54,079
Matanuska-Susit	343,641
Nome	173,531
Outer Ketchikan	43,696
Prince of Wales	121,279
Seward	122,418
Sitka	248,147
Skagway-Yakutat	76,327
Southeast Fairbanks	98,688
Haines	64,461
Juneau	4,775,679
Kenai-Cook Inlet	671,877
Ketchikan	446,208
Kobuk	79,863
Kodiak	306,790
Upper Yukon	79,863
Valdez-Chitina	156,075
Wade Hampton	72,219
Wrangell-Petersburg	216,430
Yukon-Koyukuk	138,957
Alaska Total	\$15,567,592

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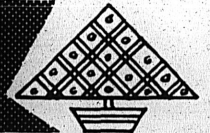
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