

Frank Berry Chosen to Fill Ralph Eluska Slot

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ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Federation of Natives Johnson-O'Malley Review Committee met here last week to designate a new director for the statewide supplementary education funds for which AFN is the prime contractor.

Frank Berry was chosen to fill the shoes of Ralph Eluska, who resigned from the position Oct. 31 amid controversy regarding the philosophy by which the program is administered over the state. Other persons in final consideration for the position were Fred Wemark, JOM contract compliance officer and Donna Christie, consultant for the AFN Health Affairs division. Some 20 persons applied for the job.

Other business of the one-day meeting Nov. 21 included considering applications for fiscal year 1976 programs and administrative budget modifications for fiscal year 1975.

Because Alaska received its JOM funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs late this year, some \$401,000 has been surplus due to programs which could not start in time and could not apply the money, according to Bea Welsh, executive secretary for the program director.

Fred Fisher, BIA education specialist, when asked by the committee whether that money will have to go back to BIA, said that he saw no problem with other state supplementary education programs applying it if they could demonstrate need. The committee wants to avoid having to return the money to BIA because to do so might mean they wouldn't be able to receive the necessary amount

next year, according to Welsh.

"The meeting was mostly dealing with immediate administration needs like hiring the new director and adjusting the budget for two positions which were never filled but required advertising, subcontractor needs, 1976 applications and contract compliance with '75 programs," she said.

When contacted regarding the new appointment, Gordon Jackson, AFN Human Resources director, said he felt the new JOM director and he would get along well.

"I think he was an excellent choice," Jackson said. "He'll provide the leadership necessary to make it a very effective program."

As far as subcontractor compliance issues discussed at the meeting, Welsh said some of the persons running programs in rural areas didn't seem to understand that they were working with cost-reimbursable contracts and were supposed to submit reimbursement requests.

"If the program starts in August, for instance, they get an advance to start with," she explained. "At the beginning of the next month they should submit a report for the last month saying what the program activities and financial costs were. They then get reimbursed so they can continue their program."