

# Manual is health aides "Bible"

By Mae Clow CHA

Nuiqsut Clinic

Dear FELLOW CHAs, and friends,

I want to report the results of the meeting I attended in Anchorage — Statewide Health Aide Association May 11 & 12.

I was impressed with how much the association has done on behalf of all health aides in the state. Since the association started you can see the results yourselves in the goals they have met like, "The Bible" came about as some like to refer to the Health Aide Manual we all use.

Better working conditions, training has improved, Medical and Dental benefits, retirement — although some are not getting this and funding for the health aide program.

Other problems that face us now, as Jim Sozoff — CHAP

reported, are the cutbacks in some programs including the Health Aide program. That will probably mean cutting the advance courses but the basic training is not affected.

It was brought out that some health corporations have received funding from the State for the health aide program. In our area you can write Frank Ferguson, Kotzebue, to give your support and concerns about the health aides.

There were 10 of us at the meeting from different regions. Some of them report the same problems that we on the North Slope Borough encounter — such as communication problems, patient travel available now only in case of emergencies, salaries of the health aides not enough for the job responsibilities especially since the cutbacks could mean

less travel by health-care providers like Doctors, Public Health Nurses, etc.

The goals and objectives of the association in the future will be to work on reorganization, manual, training, health-care, working conditions, salary, medical benefits, retirement, certification, communication with councils.

There is now a grievance committee to be used only as a last resort in the association. They are Mae Clow — Nuiqsut — 480-6320, Shirley Nielson, Koknanak, Virginia Kavisnikoff — Ninilchik, Paula Ayunerak — Alakanuk.

In order to support your association send \$12.00 a year membership fee to Eleanore McMullen, Port Graham, Alaska 99603, or other donations.

Have a good summer and good fishing.

