

# Village Medical Manual published

Gerald H. Ivey, Director of the Alaska Area Native Health Service (AANHS), recently announced the publication and distribution of a medical manual entitled "Guidelines for Primary Health Care in Rural Alaska." The manual consists primarily of examination and treatment guidelines which are to be used by the 215 Community Health Aides in rural Alaska when they provide primary health care. Copies of the manual have been distributed to each Community Health Aide as well as to State Public Health Nurses, federally employed physicians at rural AANHS hospitals and Native Health Corporation employees who work with Community Health Aides.

According to Mr. Ivey, "A Community Health Aide examines the patient following the guidelines in the manual as much as her level of training permits. She then makes a tentative assessment of the problem and contacts her referral physician."

For advice, following local Service Unit policy. If she is not able to contact a physician for advice, she should use her best judgment in assessing the situation and then follow the treatment guidelines listed in the manual. Authorized medical personnel may wish to direct the Community Health Aide to treat certain common or minor medical problems without first contacting them. This can be accomplished with the use of an authorization form which is

enclosed in the manual."

Previous to the publication of the manual, written by Joseph C. Whitaker of the Community Health Aide Program Training Section, examination and treatment guidelines used by Community Health Aides were incomplete and not consistent statewide. In order to assure statewide acceptance, the manual was produced in accordance with the recommendations of the Planning and Advisory Committee for Health Aide Programs in Alaska (PAC-HA-PA) and reviewed by the manual and Curriculum Subcommittee consisting of Airlie Bruce, PHN, Assistant Nursing Chief, Alaska Division of Public Health Nursing, Juneau; Walter Johnson, M.D., Clinical Director, Health Aide Training, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Nome; John Rich, Kuskokwim Community College, Bethel; Loretta Throop, PHN, Instructor, Community Health Aide Program, Anchorage; Lillian Walker, Community Health Aide, Holy Cross, and Jennivieve Westwick, PHN, Health Aide Supervisor/Trainer, Tanana Chiefs Health Authority, Fairbanks.

Many medical professional and consultants within the Federal and State government contributed professional advice or assistance. Original illustrations for the manual were drawn by Kay Love, former illustrator with the Area Construction and Maintenance Branch, Alaska Area Native Health Service.



**AREA DIRECTOR APPROVES**—Gerald H. Ivey, Director of the Alaska Native Health Service, has expressed his approval of the medical manual published for use by community health aides throughout Alaska. Request for copies of the manual have been forthcoming from rural areas throughout the world.

Some illustrations from copyrighted medical publications were also used with the permission of the copyright holder.

Jim Sozoff, Chief of the Community Health Aide Program, states "The manual is a great step forward in providing a base for health care in rural Alaska and in assuring continuity of effort for Community Health Aides."

Although the publication was prepared specifically for Community Health Aides in Alaska, requests for copies have been received from several under-

developed countries including India, Nepal and Liberia, who are using or considering similar approaches to rural health care. Copies of the publication are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office Washington, D.C. 20402.

Mr. Ivey concluded, "The Community Health Aide is one of our most effective ways of providing primary health care to rural Alaska and, at the same time, involving Native people in the health care delivery system."