

Alaskan village health aides complete ten week course

Five Community Health Aides from Alaskan villages recently completed the basic ten week Community Health Aide Program course offered in Anchorage. James Andrulli, Manley Hot Springs; Edna Charley, Chistochina; Beverly Hugo, Anaktuvik Pass; Genevieve M. Knudson, Hoonah; and Genevieve Soboleff, of Tenakee Springs completed the course.

Jim Andrulli was born in Massachusetts and attended school at Anchorage. He has been a resident of Manley Hot Springs since 1975 and Alaska since 1954.

Edna Charley was born in Kake, Alaska and graduated from Sheldon Jackson at Sitka and Mt. Edgecumbe School of Practical Nursing in 1957. She has been a resident of Chistochina since July 1976.

Beverly Hugo was born in Fairbanks, raised in Barrow, Alaska and graduated from Mt. Edgecumbe High School and attended U of A at Sitka and Fairbanks for 2 years. She has been a resident of Anaktuvik Pass since 1973.

Ms. Knudson was born in Juneau, Alaska and attended Mt. Edgecumbe High School and Mt. Edgecumbe School of Practical Nursing in 1959 and 1960. She has been a resident of

Hoonah, Alaska since September 1975.

Ms. Soboleff was born in Howkan, Alaska and attended Sheldon Jackson School at Sitka, Alaska. She has been a resident of Juneau and Tenakee Springs since 1940.

According to Joseph Whitaker, training coordinator for the Community Health Aide Program, the five health aides received training in the prevention and treatment of injuries and illnesses commonly encountered in Alaska. They will continue their studies at home, and at periodic workshops in Anchorage. Community Health Aides are eligible to receive 24 hours of academic credit and a certificate from the University of Alaska when they have completed the basic course and have mastered the required skills.

Genevieve Knudson and Genevieve Soboleff are employees of the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation (SEARHC), headquartered in Juneau. The SEARHC receives funding for the salaries of community health aides through a contract with the Alaska Area Native Health Service. Ms. Knudson and Ms. Soboleff are two of 17 community health aides in Southeast

Alaska and 205 statewide. Community health aides provide health services to an estimated 50,000 residents of rural Alaska.

Edna Charley, is an employee of the Copper River Native Association (CRNA) headquartered in Copper Center, Alaska. The CRNA receives funding for the salaries of community health aides through a contract with the Alaska Area Native Health Service. Edna is one of four community health aides in the Copper River Native Association.

Jim Andrulli and Beverly Hugo are employees of the Tanana Chiefs Health Authority (TCHA) headquartered in Fairbanks. The TCHA receives funding for the salaries of community health aides through a contract with the Alaska Area Native Health Service. Jim and Beverly are two of 29 community health aides in the Tanana Chiefs Health Authority.

According to Gerald H. Ivey, area director for the Alaska Area Native Health Service, "The community health aide is one of our most effective ways of providing primary health care in rural Alaska, and, at the same time, involving Native people in the health care delivery system."