

# Comprehensive Medical Services Plan in the Works

The Federal Government has been encouraging the State of Alaska to develop a comprehensive and coordinated Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan for the last six months.

Accordingly, the State Department of Health and Social Services, headed by Mr. Robert Cole, State EMS Coordinator, is sponsoring a planning workshop to develop the State EMS plan in January 6,7,8, 1975.

The Health Affairs Division, Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. has, for the last six months, been involved in investigating the potential areas of the EMS Act to determine its applicability to rural Alaska.

As a result, Mr. Joe Notaro, Deputy Director, Health Affairs Division, has been designated to chair the Bush Section during the Statewide planning workshop in January.

Prior to the meeting in January 6-8, 1975 the Health Affairs staff will be meeting with designated representatives of the Health Corporations/Health Authorities in an effort to develop a Bush Medical Services plan to jointly present before the Statewide meeting in January.

The Statewide Conference could prove significant for urban, rural and bush Alaska in that it will purport to provide the urgently needed emergency

medical services, including communication and transportation.

In other activities, the Special Committee of the Alaska Native Health Care Policy Statement will meet at AFN, Inc. on Jan. 23, 24, 1975 to assess the outcome of the recently held Second Phase of the Rural Health Conference, and to review the changes to the Policy Statement recommended by the delegates at the Rural Health Conference.

Other agenda items include: discussion of the AFN, Inc. proposal to secure funding for the formation of regional health planning units and the central planning units and to discuss methods for next year's funding of the regional Health Corporations.

Speakers at the meeting will include Dr. Taylor McKenzie Chairman of the Board, Navajo Health Authority; Representative from the National Health Service Corp, and others not yet committed to speak before the Association of Regional Health Directors.

The entire staff of the Health Affairs Division, AFN, Inc., and the Regional Health Corporations will be devoting their energies to your improved health during 1975, as well as their greatest wishes for your prosperity during the forthcoming year.