

11 Categories of Human Needs

By DONN LISTON

Alaska Native Foundation

Anchorage — The Alaska Federation of Natives Human Resources Committee met here Feb. 13-14 to discuss present issues in the state and consider need areas for the coming year.

Eleven categories of human resources needs have been identified by the staff and director of the AFN Human Resources department. The suggestions were distributed to members of the human resources committee for consideration and future direction.

Preparation and assistance for local control of education services and-or programs was suggested as one issue worthy of consideration. This is considered particularly significant, according to Gordon Jackson, Human Resources director, with regard to supplementary federal programs such as Johnson-O'Malley, Indian Education, Bilingual Education, Public Law 874 and others which impact rural Alaska.

A grant expected to help AFN and the Bush Justice Implementation Committee to begin follow-up on recommendations of the first and second Bush Justice Conferences will also demand considerable effort on the part of AFN Human Resources.

With judicial re-districting due for consideration by the state legislature, the previously expressed need for an interpreter program within the judicial system, and the foundation support recently received by Alaska Legal Services, judicial considerations are significant.

AFN's involvement in the field of communications for Alaska could become an intrinsic part of a total communications policy statement, highlighting current and future concerns and needs of Alaska Natives for such services.

Regionalization of health care delivery systems, Native contracting for health and social services, planning needs and local control of health such services are also primary areas of concern which Jackson suggested the committee consider.

Cultural heritage, government involvement, fish and game protection and development, manpower utilization, urban problems, consolidation of present AFN boards and committees for more efficiency, and other potential considerations such as housing, industrial development, legal

education, and civil rights, were also suggested.