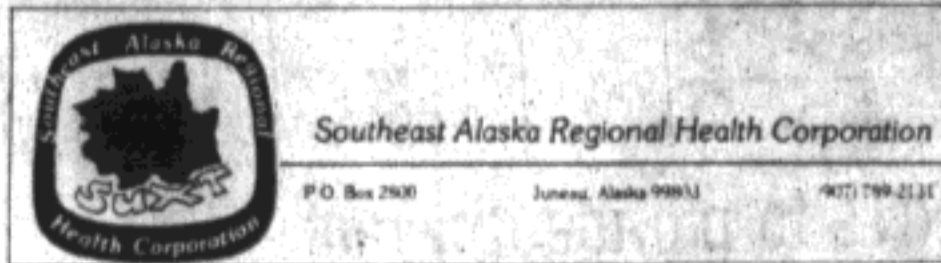


SEARHC assumes control of Juneau health, dental clinics

The significant event for Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corp. (SEARHC) was the assumption of administration of the Alaska Health Center and the Alaska Native Dental Clinic in Juneau.

This transfer of management was the result of efforts begun by staff in November, 1981 by direction of the Board. It was with pride that we viewed this event as a significant step forward by all Tlingit, Haida and Tsimpsian Indians in Southeast.



The Juneau Clinic services 2,190 Natives in the Juneau area, plus the United States Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration commissioned officers and their dependents.

Total outpatient visits for

1980 were 24,761. It is a busy clinic! The staff of 18 includes four physicians and one pharmacist.

The Dental Clinic services both Juneau and Hoonah. Hoonah has 762 eligible individuals. Staff consists of two dentists and two dental assist-

ants.

SEARHC has combined both clinics into the "SEARHC WELLness Center." In addition to managing the medical and dental programs, SEARHC will be operating the Contract Health Care program for Wellness Center patients.

Services will remain essentially the same initially, with the same benefits. With more flexibility as a private, non-profit corporation, not under the same restrictions as governmental agencies in regard to personnel freezes/rigid budget line items, SEARHC is looking to future improvement and expansion of existing services.

In line with this, SEARHC will begin investigation of State requirements for Medicaid eli-

gibility and developing procedures for insurance reimbursement to offset federal budget shortfalls.

Former Clinic Director, Bill Diebels, will be maintained under contract to provide social service counseling in the interim. Robert Francis, former Project Officer of Mt. Edgecumbe Service Unit, has been hired and will assume duties of Clinic Director on Aug. 23.

Bob has a Master's degree in Public Health from Tulane University and is a member of the Colville Tribe of Washington.

The contract for administration became effective July 25. A public transfer ceremony was held July 26.