

Board can address statewide or local problems

The Alaska Native Health Board was incorporated to give "an organized (Alaska Native) voice, to participate in decisions, development and implementation of health policies in Alaska."

This Board usually addresses statewide issues; problems that affect all or several Regions. But the Board can and does address issues of individuals and villages.

This should be used by you if you believe you need help in securing a proper settlement. Here's how:

First, if it is a village or several villages' problem, the village (each of the several involved) should, through its IRA Council or Traditional Council, pass a resolution citing the problem, who is to help, what you want done by

whom and perhaps by when.

This resolution is necessary to document the recognized need and the fact that the village (tribe) authorizes the Regional Corporation and ANHB to speak for it in addressing the issue.

These resolutions then must be reviewed by the Regional Health Board at a full board meeting or at an Executive Committee meeting. Frequently the solution can be found by them and the problem resolved.

The Regional Board may choose to refer it to ANHB by having its ANHB Board Member bring it to this Board's next meeting for consideration. Without the Regional Board's endorsement and referral, the ANHB probably could not act and would have to return it

to the Region and delay resolving the problem.

The ANHB will consider the resolution, probably endorse it with a resolution of its own and then go to whomever has the responsibility and authority to create the change needed. Then it will follow up and see that all that can be done is done. ANHB goes to federal, state or the private sector in its follow through in your name and reports back to the village through the Region.

As the health advisory group for the Alaska Federation of Natives it will frequently ask AFN's Annual Convention to pass its resolution to give further clout and aid in the problem solving.

AFN's Annual Convention is approaching (Oct. 20-22). ANHB's next meeting to con-

sider village/regional concerns/resolutions is Sept. 14-16. Village problems should be considered NOW. Then passed on to the respective Region, then to ANHB.

With this procedure the ANHB can be better prepared to support your position and speed up help. Villages always can introduce resolutions on the convention (AFN) floor but AFN much prefers the orderly process through ANHB to ensure the resolutions to be considered are properly prepared to give maximum benefit.

The process seems complicated at first glance, but here it is simply stated:

1. The village (or a council or group authorized to speak for village) passes by resolution a statement of the prob-

lem and what should be done. The resolution must authorize the Region and ANHB to speak for them on the issue if they are to become involved;

2. The passed resolution with the delegation to the Region and ANHB is sent to the Region for action and/or referral to ANHB;

3. ANHB acts to resolve it by the best means it can determine and may refer it on to AFN;

4. ANHB and Regions will follow up and let the village know the progress.

The system is designed to help you. Use it so that collectively we can improve our health care. You have to make the beginning and let us help along the way. Together we have strength.

— David E. Cates, Ph.D.