

Group provides help with AIDS

There is help in Alaska for people who want information on coping with the deadly AIDS virus, according to Bob Miller, fund-raising chairman of the Alaska AIDS Assistance Association, which has been active since September 1985.

Miller talked about AIDS with Sen. Frank Murkowski late last month on the senator's weekly radio program. Miller says AAAA is the only organization in the state that offers AIDS assistance on a large-scale basis.

The primary issue of discussion on the program was AIDS testing.

"There are a number of people who are infected or who have the antibodies and who don't know it," Miller said. "That's why it is so important that we have public policies which encourage testing. I oppose mandatory testing because it tends to frighten people away. What we want to do is encourage people to be tested as part of the counseling process."

Since 1983, there have been 43 AIDS cases in Alaska. Twenty-five of the people have died. At present, the AAAA has a client list of eight, according to Miller.

The AAAA has two hotline numbers. In Anchorage the number is 276-4880. Stateswide, the number is 800-478-AIDS.