

Twenty Native Alaskans Form Commission

With the assistance of RurAL CAP staff, Dr. Charles Hudson and the cooperative administrative staff of the Public Health Service it was made possible for a group of 20 Alaskan Native people from throughout the State to meet in the Alaska Native Medical Center's solarium conference room on June 26, 27 and 28 to organize and begin formulation of an Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

The Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse will be a non-profit corporation organized to assist in charitable, scientific and educational alcoholism programs.

Incorporation papers for the Commission have been sent to Juneau. The incorporators, assuming the incorporation will proceed as planned, tentatively elected officers who are: Ralph Amouak, President, Anchorage; Lena Andree, Vice-President, Dillingham; Evelyn Conwell, Treasurer, Kotzebue; Evelyn Myers, Secretary, Juneau; and

Stewart Nicholai, Sergeant-at-arms, Copper Center. Peter Kunnuk, Nome, was appointed acting director.

Those representing their respective associations and regions were: John Bergamaschi, Fairbanks Native Welcome Center; Emil Berikoff, Unalaska; Annie Bowen, Greater Anchorage Area Borough; Richard Carroll, Fort Yukon; Loretta Kenton, Barrow; Lillian McGarvey, Anchorage; Tom Ongtooguk, Nome; Cy Peck, COMPAS, Fairbanks; Fred Pete, Bethel; Marcello Quinto, State Advisory Board on Alcoholism, Juneau; and Ted Velanis, Kodiak. The Chugach Native Association and Cook Inlet Native Association, although not represented at this meeting, will also be part of the commission.

Aiding in the formulation plans of the Alaska Native Commission were Mark Small and John Hussman of the American Indian Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Salt Lake City, Utah.