



Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

RurAL-CAP ACTION REPORTS



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BILL MIGHT EXPAND HEAD START PROGRAM

Dental Program Stressed--

Program Under AFN Healthright Corp. Discussed

The Copper Valley-Tanana Regional Development Board met at Chistochina on October 23 and 24. Board members from ten villages in the Copper region were represented.

Newly elected officers for the upcoming year were Merrill Kieffer from Kenny Lake, Nancy Craig from Mentasta, and Mildred Buck from Glennallen.

Items on the agenda included discussion of a new dental program under the direction of the Alaska Federation of Natives

Healthright Corporation; presentation of planning guidelines for village development by Ralph Solomon from the Office of the Governor, Indian Opportunity; and a brief training session on Board responsibility in an OEO Community Action Program structure was given by Mike Harper, Planning Developer on the RurAL CAP staff.

Also, Oliver J. Amend, Director of the RurAL CAP Village Equipment Mobilization Program, spoke on responsibilities

of regional boards who obtain equipment.

It was later discussed that an ambulance is needed to transport emergency cases to Faith Hospital in Glenallen. The Board expressed hope that the VEMP program would be able to provide a surplus ambulance for the Copper Valley region.

A resolution was passed to promote the hiring of Native people for police duties with the Alaska State Troopers.

Alaska Congressional Delegation Urged To Help Pass the Bill

John Shively, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, called for all those persons who are interested in expanding Head Start programs in rural villages to contact their Congressional Delegation requesting passage of Senate Bill 2007, which may allow for funding of programs in every village in the state.

The director sent telegrams to Senator Ted Stevens, Senator Mike Gravel and Congressman Nick Begich, expressing his concern on the need for passage of the bill.

In the telegram, Shively stated that RurAL CAP has only 39 operating Head Start programs at present and could have 200 if funds were available. It is extremely crucial, he said, that Senate Bill 2007 on the Economic Opportunity Act be passed.

The Senate Bill would offer

free child development services to children in families with annual incomes below \$6,960.

The House Bill proposal was for a \$4,320 annual income level. A compromise figure of \$5,250 was reached, but rejected by Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Elliot Richardson who said he would recommend that the President veto any bill with an income ceiling above \$4,320, the official poverty level income for a family of four.

7 Alcoholism Counselors Hired--

Seven Native Areas Involved in Alcoholism War

RurAL CAP has announced that as of November 1, 1971, seven alcoholism counselors had been hired and were working in various areas in the state. They are employed under a \$150,000 grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity for 18 months.

Margaret Schultz is based in Kotzebue and is under the direction of the Kikiktugruk Regional Development Corporation; Lena Andree is located in Dillingham with the Bristol Bay Development Corporation; Evelyn Myers is in Juneau and works for the Southeastern Alaska Community Action Program.

Also, Steward Nicolai is working in Copper Center with the Copper Valley-Tanana Regional Development Corporation; Ted Velanis works in Kodiak with the Kodiak Area Development Corporation.

And Emil Berikoff is located in the village of Unalaska under

an arrangement between RurAL CAP and the Aleut League.

According to RurAL CAP coordinator of special projects Peter Kunnuk, the most important requirements now are for comprehensive training (e.g., theories on alcoholism, community development, and counseling skills) and for adequate technical assistance throughout 1972.

Training arrangements have been made in cooperation with the University of California at Santa Cruz (Department of Community Development), which provides OEO alcoholism training in the western states.

On November 8 and 9, Mr. Jerry Endres and Mr. Dale Flowers, of the University of California, met with RurAL CAP staff and training consultants in Anchorage.

Also in attendance were Miss Ann Bowen and Mr. Cyrus Peck, Jr., who recently spent a month

at the University campus at Santa Cruz receiving intensive training in these fields.

Cooperating in the training effort are the University of Alaska and the Alaska State Office of Alcoholism.

As a result of these planning sessions, it has been recognized that Alaska needs an academic research and teaching program on alcoholism and related addictive problems.

On Tuesday, November 9, a resolution was adopted by participating planners calling for the establishment of a 15-member advisory board which will present a project proposal to the University of Alaska Board of Regents at its January 15 meeting in Fairbanks.

The resolution states that Alaska has a continuing need for research, publishing and public education concerning the problems of alcohol abuse, and that no comprehensive state-wide

institution is serving this purpose at present.

It proposes a University Center for alcoholism and addictions, coordinator of program planning, training and research in one of the most severe social problems of contemporary Alaska.

The results of the meetings, according to Kunnuk, are encouraging. He commented that it was a very productive session in which RurAL CAP, Anchorage CAA, the University of California, the University of Alaska, the Anchorage Alcoholism Management Group and the State Office of Alcoholism began to address some common goals.

Clarks Point Rd.

A road which will eliminate the hazard of the Nushagak River flooding in the Village of Clarks Point has recently been completed. The project entailed cutting a road up a 150 ft. bluff to the new village which is presently being laid out.

Oliver Amend, Director of RurAL CAP's Village Equipment Mobilization Program (VEMP), stated that it would have been impossible to construct the road to the higher location if it weren't for the D-8 cat stationed there.

The tractor is part of the equipment the RurAL CAP program supplies throughout rural Alaska, and is also being used to lay out the new townsites.

A dump truck which was obtained through the VEMP program is being used on a road project in the old village of Clarks Point.

Both projects were sponsored by the Rural Development Administration.

Indian Water Rights Office in D.C.-- Principal Features Beginning to Take Shape

WASHINGTON, D.C. — (AIPA)—Principal features of the Indian Bureau's Indian Water Rights Office announced on Oct 4 are taking shape and personnel assignments will be announced shortly.

Interior-Bureau liaison William Rogers in a memorandum to Commissioner Louis R. Bruce submitted the names of James Hena (Pueblo), Atty. Browning Pipestem (Oto) and BIA special assistant Arthur Gajarsa as candidates to head the office.

The office was created by the Interior Department in the wake of a public outcry protesting the transfer of water rights authority William H. Veeder to the Phoenix Office. That transfer has

since been rescinded.

Created to fill an advocacy vacuum until the Nixon Trust Counsel Authority Bill is signed into law (hearings on the proposed legislation have been set Nov. 22-23), the office will operate on a first-year budget of \$2 million.

Liaison Rogers told AIPA that while he was not at liberty to disclose where the \$2 million would originate, the sum would be derived in part from existing allocation in the 1972 budget.

In a memorandum to the Interior Secretary dated Oct. 18, Deputy Commissioner John O. Crow outlined the responsibilities and functions of the office.

It will identify water rights

problems, develop relevant technical data, initiate corrective actions in strategic areas, prepare timely defense suits for submission to the Justice Department for filing in the courts, and provide direct technical assistance to field teams working exclusively in the Indian water rights area.

Staffed by participants from the Interior Solicitor's Office, the Geological Survey and the BIA, the office in addition will utilize the professional skills of attorneys, geologists, hydrologists, natural resource specialists and engineers.

An advisory board selected by the National Tribal Chairmen's Association will provide direct guidance to the office.

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