

# RurAL CAP sponsors conference on substance abuse, May 9-11

The 3rd annual Rural Providers Conference, designed to bring together substance abuse workers from all parts of Alaska, will be held May 9-11th in Tyonek. The Rural Providers Conference is sponsored by the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) under a grant from their Community Services Block Grant.

This year's conference will provide substance abuse workers with relevant information and materials on issues related to adult children of alcoholics, suicides, and community development. Many substance abuse workers in the alcohol and drug field have already received training, and planners of the conference want to enable participants to design and present workshops in their own communities.

"There is a feeling of hope beginning to emerge in this field," said Doug Modig, RurAL CAP's Alcohol Program Coordinator. "People are seeing the possibility of effecting change in their own communities on the issue of alcohol." He continued, "At this conference, we hope to develop that hope in people from communities which are experiencing the most problems by sharing activities that work,

and 'wins' other communities have experienced through their own efforts."

At their Annual Meeting last December, the RurAL CAP Board of Directors adopted a strong stand on the alcohol issue. In an effort to provide positive leadership and develop committed unity on alcohol and drug abuse, RurAL CAP will not sponsor activities at which alcohol is served or sold. Many Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood Camps have also stated that no intoxicating beverages will be served or permitted at their functions, and some regional health corporations now require sobriety when representatives travel on their behalf. A nationwide effort along these lines is now underway among the Native peoples of Canada, and is expected to be featured at the conference.

Another goal of the Rural Providers Conference is to develop an ongoing support network among substance abuse workers from rural Alaska that will be maintained throughout the year. If you are interested in attending the Conference, or would like further information, please call Doug Modig or Amy Lohr at RurAL CAP, 279-2511.