

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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SEACAP CONTRACTS FOR SUMMER DAY CARE

Alcoholism Work Progresses

Alcoholism programs being fielded throughout the State of Alaska have recently been receiving technical assistance from the Alaska State Office of Alcoholism. Great strides have been made in the field of alcoholism as offered by rural Alaska community alcoholism programs.

Trips have been made to different areas of the State by Mr. Ralph Amouak, Alcoholism Training Coordinator for RurAL CAP, and Mr. John Keating, Coordinator, Alaska State Office of Alcoholism.

When queries about his opinion regarding the results of RurAL CAP program observed during the trip, Mr. Keating stated, "The dedication and involvement of the staff is resulting in significant improvements in services available to the alcoholic in the communities we visited."

"I am deeply impressed with the cooperation evidenced by the organizations and agencies



SHIVELY AND FORMER DEPUTY — John Shively, Executive Director of RurAL CAP, is standing with his former Deputy Director Nels A. Anderson who has since resigned to head his regional organization headquartered in Dillingham.

within these communities. RurAL CAP and its staff should be congratulated for the success of the programs under Mr. Amouak's technical supervision."

According to Mr. Amouak, "We are looking forward to the continued fine working relationship we presently have with Mr. Keating and the State Alcoholism Office."

Revenue Sharing Grant for Aleutians

A \$50,000 revenue sharing demonstration grant for the Aleutian Chain has been awarded to RurAL CAP by the Office of Economic Opportunity, Region X.

The grant will fund a staff to carry out community planning projects in connection with the Aleut League and the 12 Village Councils of Akutan, Atka, Belhofski, Cold Bay, False Pass, King Cove, Nelsqn Lagoon, Nikoloski, Sand Point, St. George, St. Paul and Unalaska.

The work program for the Aleut grant includes training sessions about fishery co-operatives, designing and organizing twelve village planning commissions and developing an educational system to disseminate information about the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement.

The philosophy of RurAL CAP is to involve poverty stricken people in designing, developing and executing programs

designed for their benefit, and the agency believes that with the revenue sharing planning grant, the twelve Aleutian villages

could significantly change their present poverty status through planning, and develop viable democratic communities.

Protests Hiring of Non-Alaskans

John Shively, Executive Director of Rural Alaska Community Action Program, has protested the hiring of non-Alaskans for work in Bristol Bay canneries in a letter to Governor William Egan.

Mr. Shively pointed out that his understanding is that the canneries plan to hire a number of people from Seattle and he was aware of at least thirty workers who had already been brought in to the Bristol Bay area.

The hiring of these non-Alaskans was to be at the expense of people from the Bristol Bay and Bethel area who tradi-

tionally have worked in the canneries. Governor Egan has been asked to do everything in his power to prevent the canneries from bringing in workers from outside the state.

Mr. Robert Willard, Director of the State Human Rights Commission, has also protested the bringing in of persons from outside the state to work in the canneries.

In telegrams to Governor Egan and Commissioner of Labor Benson, Mr. Willard has asked for immediate action to prevent the loss of jobs for Alaska residents.

Program Set Up for Working Mothers' Tots

The Southeastern Alaska Community Action Program contracted last week with the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Child and Family Services to provide comprehensive child care services in seven southeastern communities.

Using title IV-A funds administered by the Division of Child and Family Services and local matching money, SEACAP will establish summer day care programs for the children of working mothers in the villages of Angoon, Craig, Kake, Klawock, Hydraburg, Hoonah, and Yakutat.

Seventy-five per cent of the \$78,000 necessary to run the programs will come from federal money channeled through the State of Alaska. The remaining quarter of the program's expenses will be forthcoming from the villages participating.

The organizational effort needed to establish the day care programs has already been initiated by the Juneau staff of SEACAP, all seven day care programs will begin operating by the first week in July. The centers will continue through cannery season and terminate with the opening of the schools

in the fall of 1972.

Shortly thereafter, the administration and staff of the seven centers will gather for an evaluation session to modify and strengthen the program for the following season.

Mr. Jackson emphasized that the policy of SEACAP shall be to delegate most of the operating responsibility to each particular community day care center. SEACAP's primary role will be the handling of the paperwork and inter-agency coordination necessary to establish the programs, lessening the administrative requirements for the villages and allowing the local directors to concentrate their full attention upon the daily operations of their own centers.

Women in the small villages must frequently take summer work to supplement meager family incomes. However, they are seldom able to find adequate child care services for their younger children. SEACAP intends to furnish these essential social services in the seven communities through its new program.

The program objectives anticipate the involvement of the child's parents whenever possible and an emphasis upon the family as fundamental to the child's development.

Daily hot meals and nutritious snacks will be prepared for the child, provision will be made for coordinated health services, and educational opportunities will be offered every child appropriate to his age.

The educational activities will provide for daily large and small muscle activity, individual and group table activities, musical and other games, exercises to aid language development and activities designed to perpetuate the child's cultural heritage.

It is the intent of SEACAP through its day care program for expanded state and federal social services in the rural areas and to establish a workable proto-type program which can be used by other small communities in Alaska.

Work in the canneries is one of the few forms of employment open to Native people living in the rural areas. Unemployment rates run between 80-90% in the villages in the winter time, and summer cannery work offers the one opportunity for Natives to obtain a cash income.

Mr. Shively stated that, "By depriving Alaskans of jobs in the canneries, the canned salmon industry is forcing Alaska Natives onto welfare. Alaska's Natives are being deprived of their livelihood and the state needs to do everything in its power to prevent this."

Need Aid for Pure Water at St. George

ANCHORAGE — Public Health Service officials in Anchorage are seeking assistance in providing enough pure water to halt mounting problems of hypertensive vascular disease among residents of St. George Island in the Pribilofs.

A plea for assistance filed with the national Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration national marine fisheries service in Washington states that 37 adults out of a population of 50-55 over 21 years of age are under treatment in one degree or another for this disease.

"We also note that there are a large number of prevascular disease signs in the population under 21 years which is unusual and not at all expected in such a population," wrote Dr. John F. Lee, director of the Alaska

Area Native Health Service.

The problem boils down to salty water, the only kind of water available in quantity to the villagers at St. George.

The public health service facility on St. George Island furnished distilled water through a small still at the clinic, but amounts of water necessary exceeds that the still is able to process.

Lee expressed special concern for use of water with a high degree of sodium by the younger people on the island who show a pre-clinical indication of hypertensive vascular disease.

He urged the assistance of federal authorities in providing a water source low in sodium, probably in the form of a desalinization unit.

Leaders of the Aleut League

learned about this mounting medical problem during a trip through the Aleutian Chain in late April to discuss the native land claims settlement. Villagers at St. George told them they had been complaining for a long time to the federal marine agency, but nothing had been done.

So the Aleut League leaders, led by Mike Swetozof, president, brought back samples of the water for testing. Medical authorities have concluded that due to the high sodium and chloride content, the existing water source is unsatisfactory and hazardous to the health of St. George islanders.

This problem should be treated as an emergency and something done to rectify it immediately, said Swetozof.

Second Year funding for Claims Approved by Subcommittee

Second year funding in 1973 for the Alaska native land claims settlement has been approved by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, according to Senator Ted Stevens.

Fifty million dollars is earmarked for the native land claims fund established in the settlement act which passed Congress last year. The money would become available after the native regional corporations are established and the enrollment is complete.

Of immediate importance is a provision in the appropriations bill saving any portion of the \$500,000 provided to each corporation for the current fiscal year from lapsing on June 30th.

Senator Stevens gained the subcommittee's approval to make the remainder available to the corporations in fiscal year 1973 and not rush expenditures that could be better utilized with more planning.

A separate item of one million dollars was also approved for distribution to the corporation under discretionary authority of the Secretary of Interior.

It is expected that the full appropriations committee will vote on the bill in the next week before going to the senate floor.

Final passage must await conference committee agreement the House which passed a different version of the bill.

Senator Stevens is ranking minority member of the subcommittee.