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**AFN, Inc.**

670 W. Fireweed

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

## NEWSLETTER

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Anchorage, Alaska

# BJC releases third report

## Jackson attends W/A RMP in Seattle

Gordon Jackson, executive vice president, Alaska Federation of Natives, attended the final meeting of the Washington/Alaska Regional Medical Program in Seattle recently.

The program was phased out following the passage of Public Law 93-641 which incorporated the Hill-Burton Act, Comprehensive Health Planning, and Regional Medical Program into a nationwide system of health planning.

Jackson, a member of the Regional Advisory Board, expressed his appreciation for funding the demonstration programs in the closing moments of the meeting.

Jackson stated, "the program was instrumental, particularly in the demonstration that an idea would work. For instance, RMP funded some of the first satellite experiments in the late 60s.

Today there are plans to bring telecommunications to over 100 villages in Alaska. You funded the Alaska Health Science Library at the Native Medical Center and it has many, many patrons. You made it possible for AFN and other organizations to develop a health aide curriculum and now it is possible for health aides to work towards an associate degree. You funded AFN's first and second annual conferences on rural health, which has set the direction for health delivery in rural Alaska. You've funded the development money for our successor, the Health System Agency. For this, we the Alaska Natives are appreciative of your efforts and must state, RMP will be missed in the Native community."

RMPs came into existence in 1965 during an era where there were no limits on the federal budget for health and when health problems were dealt with

through categorical programs such as heart disease, stroke, which caused 70 per cent of all deaths, therefore a program was developed to control them.

By 1970, when RMP was extended, modifications were introduced which included an emphasis on primary care and health service delivery and added kidney disease.

RMPs were nudged further from their original categorical approach in 1971, when HEW emphasized broader and more comprehensive approaches suggesting the demonstration nature of the program.

In January, 1973, the Nixon administration announced the termination of RMPs and although Congress revised this with legislation that continued RMPs, the administration impounded funds and in other ways restricted RMP activities.

In September, 1973, the U.S. District Court ordered release of RMP funds and restrictions. By 1974, Congress, concerned about the alarming cost of health care and lack of coordination of federal health programs, passed P.L. 93-641, the National Health Planning and Resource Development Act which was to merge CHP's, RMP's, Hill-Burton and experimental Health Service Delivery programs into a single agency.

Commenting on the future of P.L. 93-641, Jackson stated, "if Congress and HEW sincerely support this program financially and programatically, the program will be a meaningful one. However, if they don't, within 8 to 10 years, we'll be phasing out another program known as P.L. 93-641 and moving into another beginning the cycle all over again."

## Gordon Jackson testifies for AFN

TESTIMONY OF GORDON JACKSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, HUMAN RESOURCES, ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc. I would like to welcome the Education Task Force, American Indian Policy Review Commission to Alaska. I'm sure you will find your visit pleasant, rewarding, and full of information concerning the rapidly changing picture of education in Alaska. As a coordinator of the education hearing, we have attempted to organize an agenda that will give you a total look at Native education in Alaska.

As I stated previously, Native education, particularly in the unorganized borough is a rapidly changing picture. A big part of this rapidly changing picture is the implementation of Senate Bill 35.

Senate Bill 35, passed the Alaska State Legislature last year as one of their major accomplishments. It created the Alaska Unorganized Borough School District (AUBSD) and decentralized the Alaska State Operated Schools into 21 Regional Education Attendance Areas (REAAs).

Their policies are determined by a board of directors elected by the people within their own respective regional attendance areas.

A little over one year ago, this system didn't exist. In fact, a little over one year ago the Alaska State Educational Delivery System was one of the most inefficient, ineffective and against all principles of democracy this country has expoused since its creation over 200 years ago.

The Delivery System

consisted of several uncoordinated parts. First, there were the municipalities which were granted local control powers under Title 29, Alaska State Statutes.

These municipalities totaling around 29 throughout the state were the only true form of locally controlling the education system in this vast state. The State Department of Education and municipalities collectively funded the system and provided assistance.

The second was via the Alaska State Operated School System. This system delivered education throughout the unorganized borough and military reservations.

Their policies were determined by a 9-member board of directors appointed by the governor. This system consisted of over 150 schools.

Third, via the Bureau of Indian Affairs whose policies were determined largely by the federal government. This system delivered education services to over 50 schools in Alaska.

The one constant exception to the other three delivery systems is a fourth, the Dormitory and Boarding Home Program funded by the state and contracted to Native associations throughout Alaska in places where there were high schools requiring students to travel into unknown territories hundreds of miles from their homes.

It was this deplorable delivery system, of determining school policy; of budgeting; of determining curriculum; of hiring and firing; which were all different that convinced us there should be a change in the system to make it more responsive, effective and close to people affected.

The result, after two years

The Alaska Federation of Natives Bush Justice Implementation Committee released its area report on Nome and Kotzebue. The report is based on interviews and observations made by Bush Justice Project's Field Workers during several trips as well as on responses of justice agency

officials and community leaders to draft copies of the report.

The Bush Justice Implementation Committee also held a series of interviews and meetings in Nome the last week of April to assess response to the draft report.

As with the Committee's previous reports, the Nome/Kotzebue Report attempts to relate the justice delivery problems of these communities in the words of the people and justice agency personnel who live in the communities.

In that context, the report identifies a feeling among the Magistrates in Kotzebue and the surrounding villages that they are "not getting enough support from the Alaska Court System."

According to the report, some of the magistrates in this area feel they are under-paid and lack real communication with the State Court System.

The report praises the Kotzebue State Trooper, John Leonard, for his education and public relations work in the villages surrounding Kotzebue. The report also describes the frustration of people in the village of Golovin who feel the State Troopers do not respond unless the problem is serious.

The Troopers, on the other hand, identify the problem as being a lack of money in their travel budget to enable them to respond on a preventative basis to "forestall trouble by their presence."

According to the report, Sgt. John Elmore, Commander of the Nome State Trooper Detachment, believes that Constables hired locally, and who are responsible for several villages in a small area, might also solve the transportation and response problems.

The report also emphasizes the juvenile delinquency problems associated with alcohol in these communities. According to both Ross Schaeffer, the Kotzebue Magistrate, and John Leonard, juvenile problems in Kotzebue are related to the fact that children have nothing constructive to do with their idle time.

This leads to drinking and experimenting with drugs and then to criminal activity. As with previous reports, the Nome/Kotzebue Report describes a lack of resources with which to deal with delinquent and pre-delinquent children in rural communities.

Drawing from numerous statements throughout the report, the Bush Justice Committee recommends increased localization and local control of the justice services intended for rural communities. According to Ross Schaeffer, "People want to handle things locally."

The Bush Justice Committee's Nome/Kotzebue Report recommends that there be more local control of law enforcement, localized professional training and public education in criminal justice in order to develop increased law enforcement, judicial and correctional self-sufficiency within rural communities.

The Bush Justice Implementation Committee is composed of Gordon Jackson, Anchorage; Phillip Guy, Kwethluk; Bill Tegoseak, Barrow; Timothy Towarak, Unalakleet; and Richard Carroll, Ft. Yukon.

## Upward Bound

The final Upward Bound Session for the 75-76 school year will be held for 40 of the current Upward Bound students, in Anchorage and Fairbanks from May 30 to June 11.

The Anchorage component will end on June 7, when the staff and students will leave by charter bus for the scenic trip, through Mt. McKinley National Park, and on to Fairbanks.

Alaska Student Higher Education Services Project (ASHES), within the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc. (AFN) is responsible for the development and implementation of the Upward Bound, talent search and special services programs statewide.

The goal of the ASHES project is to assist eligible students re-enter, continue, and

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