

### Letter from the President

**Timing is Everything!**

Enroute to San Diego for the APHA Meeting and Expo, I traveled through Salt Lake City to hook up with my husband for a visit with his family. He went south early to enjoy a week with his brother and friend fly-fishing on fabled Henry's Fork, a river he has fished since childhood. I packed for the conference, fly fishing and a trip to the desert. Because the fishing had been great, we headed north to Henry's Fork. The scenery was fantastic, the weather, cold with a biting wind. The river was ours! We were sure the next "hatch" of nymphs was about to emerge driving the trout mad. It never happened. With fly fishing... timing is everything.

Autumn and early winter is "peak" time for the ALPHA Board. Planning for the Summit begins in January and reaches a frenzied state the following November when resolutions and awards are solicited and the last keynote speaker and session fall into place. The planning

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committee under President-Elect Jayne Andreen has done an excellent job of preparing for this year's Summit. We hope you will join us at the Sheraton on December 1-3, 2008, to enjoy and learn from the great program the committee has put together.

**National Public Health Week: April 6-12, 2008**

The Alaska Public Health Association (ALPHA) is an affiliate of the American Public Health Association (APHA). Through our association with APHA, ALPHA is able to join forces with other affiliates across the nation in advocating for health and disease prevention. Since 1995, when the first full week of April was declared as National Public Health Week (NPHW), communities across the country have celebrated NPHAW to recognize public health and highlight issues that are important to improving the public's health. The American Public Health Association creates planning, organizing and outreach materials that can be used during and after the week to raise awareness about the year's theme.

The theme for national Public Health Week, April 6-12, 2009, is **Building the Foundation for a Healthy America**. This year, to support celebration of National Public Health Week in Alaska, the ALPHA will be providing grants to three individuals or communities to organize and conduct activities during NPHW. A total of \$1500 is available for the grants. Grant activities can include community based health promotion activities and other gatherings to raise awareness of the important role of public health in improving health in America. We will be sending out a request for proposals to the membership in late December 2008. In the meantime, visit [www.nphw.org](http://www.nphw.org) to learn more about National Public Health Week and to begin thinking of ideas for



Henry's Fork

your grant proposal!

**APHA Membership Survey**

One of the goals of our APHA grant, described in the Summer 2008 ALPHA newsletter is to recruit and engage members in our organization. During late November/early December, ALPHA will be conducting a survey to learn more about our members, the strengths of our organization from the members' perspectives, and to gain ideas from the members of how to strengthen the organization to meet their professional needs. The survey will be administered electronically using Survey Monkey, a web-based survey tool. The survey will be "delivered" to your e-mail address. We hope that you will take the time to share your thoughts with us. Wendy Parsons, a student in the University of Alaska Master of Public Health Program is working with me on survey development, implementation and analysis. We look forward to sharing the results of the survey with you in a future newsletter. Also, between November 22 – December 23, 2008, some of you may also receive a survey from APHA looking for direction from you on how APHA can better meet your needs. I hope you will take the time to respond to that survey as well if you are randomly selected to participate.

-Debra Caldera

## 26th Annual Health Summit

Tis that time of year, again, Alaska's Public Health People!!! The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Summit is less than a week away! This year's theme, *Alaska's Health; Bridging the Gap*, emphasizes the importance of building on our existing knowledge and systems to improve the health of all Alaskans. The program provides opportunities to build our skills and understanding, to discuss and debate our current strengths and challenges, and to meet old



**Register Online!**

Available September 15 at:  
[www.alaskapublichealth.org](http://www.alaskapublichealth.org)

## 26th Annual Alaska Health Summit

[www.alaskapublichealth.org/summit.shtml](http://www.alaskapublichealth.org/summit.shtml)

**December 1st - 3rd, 2008**

The Sheraton Hotel  
401 E. 6th Ave, Anchorage, AK

*Alaska's Health: Bridging the Gap*

and new colleagues and friends as we continue our work. This issue contains information about some of the exciting opportunities that will be offered this year. We hope to see you there!

By Jayne Andreen

## Plenary Sessions

Our plenary speakers include some leading state and national experts from a range of expertise. The opening key note entitled, *Designing our Preferred Future* will be provided by **Leland Kaiser, Ph.D.** Dr. Kaiser is a dynamic, motivational speaker known for his ability to change the way organizations think. A recognized futurist and acknowledged authority on the changing American healthcare system, he is a provocateur and mentor to many hospitals and healthcare organizations in the U.S.

***The Health Of Alaskans on the Road to 2010: Progress Challenges and Priorities*** will be presented by **Beverly K. Wooley, RD, CHES.** Ms. Wooley is the director of the Alaska Division of Public Health (DPH), a state agency with more than 500 full-time employees. She has a long career in public health in Alaska ranging from the North Slope Borough to 20 years with the Municipality of Anchorage.

***Health Disparities and Human Rights*** will be presented by **Cheryl Easley, PhD, MPH.** She is an integral part of UAA's academic community. Since 2003, she has been dean and professor for the College of Health and Social Welfare at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Dr. Easley just assumed the position of President of the American Public Health Association --- a first for Alaska. She will address the Summit on

***Innovations in Public Health, the Old and the New*** will be delivered by **Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH.** Dr. Fox is a public health physician who has headed federal, state, and local agencies. He is currently a professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami, and the founding director of the Florida Public Health Institute.

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## Plenary Sessions (continued from page 2)

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*Science in Public Health* will be addressed by **Susan Allan MD, JD, MPH**. Dr. Allan has been the Director of the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice since July 2008. Prior to coming to the University of Washington, she worked in state and local public health for more than 23 years, including 3 years as Public Health Director and State Health Officer for Oregon, and 18 years as the Health Director for Arlington County, Virginia.

*Healthcare Professions Loan Repayment and Direct Incentive Programs for Recruitment and Retention* will be delivered by **Donald Pathman, MD, MPH**. Dr. Prthman is professor and research director of the Department of Family Medicine, and Director of the Program on Health Professions and Primary

## ALPHA Annual Meeting

The Alaska Public Health Association's Annual meeting will take place on Monday evening, with a welcoming reception at 5:30, and the business meeting beginning at 6:00.

Business to be covered includes announcement of the new officers and Board of Directors and a review of a wide range of public health related resolutions.

by Jayne Andreen

## Public Forum

An evening forum is scheduled for Tuesday evening on *Making the Healthy System Work*. This panel of Alaska's policy makers includes Hollis French, Alaska State Senate, JoAnn Lamphere, AARP Legislative Liaison, Johnny Ellis, Alaska State Senate and Robert Craig, Citizens Action Wisconsin. Alaska

Care at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He

is also a practicing rural physician and has published extensively on workforce issues.

A panel discussion on *Bridging the Gap to a Healthy Future* will be moderated by **Jay Butler, MD**. Dr. Butler is Chief Medical Officer for the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, and previously served as the Public Health Deputy Director for Science and Medicine.

By Janyne Andreen



25th Annual Alaska Health Summit

*“Our plenary speakers include some leading state and national expertise from a range of expertise”*



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ranks in the bottom quartile of all the states in several measures of health system performance including the percent insured, the affordability of health-care and several children's health indicators. This session will examine potential solutions to improve the performance of the Alaska health-care system.

By Kaume Andreen

## Concurrent Sessions

This year's concurrent session include a wide range of Alaskan presenters and topics. Sessions include:

### Workforce Development:

- Improving Recruitment and Retention in Our Most Valuable Communities: An Overview to AHEC and the SEARCH Program
- Developing Alaska's Healthcare Workforce: Rural and Direct-Care Contributions
- Filling the Behavioral Workforce Gap - Alaska Statewide Projects and Initiatives
- Advocacy Call for Workforce Shortage Solution: Health Care Professions Loans Repayment and Incentive Program
- The Dental Health Aide Program: A story of dental workforce development in Alaska

### Hot Topics and Emerging Issues:

- Emergency Preparedness: Children, Adults, and Communities
- Current Alaska Issues in Environmental Health
- Illam Inga: The Eye of Awareness, Historical Trauma and Healing the Wounded Spirit
- Update on Mental Health Issues for Returning Veterans - Demographics, Problems, Services, Access
- Midwifery in the North
- FASD: You CAN Prevent It!
- Fusing Our Legislative Priorities Together Workshop

### Innovative Approaches:

- Innovations in Telehealth Support and Colorectal Cancer Screening Outreach
- The Southcentral Foundation Nuka Model: Transformation of Healthcare
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- Alaska in the Forefront: Creativity and Innovations in Alaska's Health Care System
- Innovative Approaches to Local Policy Change: Engaging Community & Youth Advocates in Health Promotion

### Public Health Science:

- Using data to improve public health programs: The Alaska Tobacco Quitline
- Assessing FNSB Seniors' Quality of Life
- Using data to inform programs and recommendations for prevention - the MCH example
- Alaska Epidemiologic Profile on Substance Use, Abuse and Dependency
- Which Gap? – An Integral Framework for Mapping Alaska Health System
- ANTHC Wellness & Preventive Approaches in Promoting Community Wellness

### Social Determinants and Health Disparities:

- WISE: At Every Size – A New Approach to Alaska's Health
- Tobacco Use in Alaska: Understanding and Addressing Disparities
- Alaska Salmon? ...Swimming upstream against the floodwaters of health disparities
- Strategies to Reduce Sexually Transmitted Disease Disparities in the Alaska Native Population: Surveillance, Interventions and Collaborations
- Health Through Traditional Native Knowledge
  - Hospital Discharge Data in Alaska
  - Development of Policy Change Capacity at the Local Level: Discussion of Policy Core Competencies Within a Workforce Located in Small, Hub and Urban Alaskan Communities
  - Growing up Tobacco Free in Alaska - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium RurAL CAP Head Start Pilot Project
  - Changing the Face of Alaskans Health Records One Byte at a Time
  - Tuberculosis Outbreak Among the Homeless
  - Introducing the Anchorage Health Status Report Skin to Skin Care for Newborns

by Jayne Andreen

## NEW—Roundtable Sessions

A new feature for this year's summit is a roundtable session that will allow participants to meet with a presenter to discuss a specific topic.

- Hospital Discharge Data in Alaska
- Development of Policy Change Capacity at the Local Level: Discussion of Policy Core Competencies Within a Workforce Located in Small, Hub and Urban Alaskan Communities
- Growing up Tobacco Free in Alaska - Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium RurAL CAP
- Head Start Pilot Project
- Changing the Face of Alaskans Health Records One Byte at a Time
- Tuberculosis Outbreak Among the Homeless
- Introducing the Anchorage Health Status Report
- Skin to skin care for Newborns

## Coalition and Other Meetings

### Alaska Community Action on Toxics - Environmental Reproductive Health and Justice Round-Table:

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) cordially invites you to share lunch and lively discussion concerning how reproductive health is affected by chemicals in the environment and those used in everyday products. The medical and scientific communities have expressed growing concern about the low dose effects of chemicals on fertility, development, and endocrine-related diseases. Please join us to explore the latest science and possible collaborative work to achieve preventative and protective policies to ensure the well-being of current and future generations.

Please RSVP to Alaska Community Action on Toxics by Friday, November 21, 2008 by phone at (907) 222-7714 or by e-mail to [colleen@akaction.org](mailto:colleen@akaction.org).

### Senior Behavioral Health Outreach: Tuesday 5 – 7 PM Susitna Room

Headed by Akeela and supported by numerous community agencies, this Division of Behavioral Health-funded project is in the planning stages of their grant. The coalition is working towards the goal of reducing the risk/incidence of substance abuse and



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mental health problems in seniors 60+ in Alaska. At this meeting we hope to identify specific roles of coalition members and delineate upcoming goals. For more information, contact Rebecca Carlson at [rcarlson@akeela.org](mailto:rcarlson@akeela.org)

## Post-Summit Meetings & Events

### Dental Workforce in Alaska: Where We Are and the Road Ahead, Dec 2, 2008 - 12 -1:30 PM (Note this is taking place on Tuesday)

The oral health of Alaskan must improve and this depends, in part, on the creation of new dental workforce programs. To bolster this, the state has now won a new federal grant entitled "Dental Workforce in Alaska", which builds on the "Alaska Oral Health Plan: 2008-2012". In this session, attendees discuss ways that the grant may be used to (1) build con-

sensus, (2) collect data, and (3) plan for needed "support-for-service" and dental training options. Come listen, give your thoughts and consider joining the Dental Workforce Advisory Council. This session is intended for program managers, clinic supervisors, planners, policy makers and advocates.



### Building Partnerships for Coordinated School Health Programs, Dec 4

This invitational session is a statewide meeting of school health program partners. The purpose of the session is to examine school health policy and practice in Alaska, discuss ways to increase capacity for coordinated school health programs

and enhance coordination of programs and resources available to schools related to the eight essential components of Coordinated School Health Programs. For more information contact [patricia.owen@alaska.gov](mailto:patricia.owen@alaska.gov)

### Using What Works: Adapting Evidence-Based Programs to Fit Your Needs. A Training Program for Comprehensive Cancer Control Planners. December 4, 2008

One of the greatest challenges facing health promotion and disease prevention is translating research findings into evidence-based public health and clinical practices that are actively disseminated and widely adopted. (Kerner, Rimer,

Emmons, 2005). While integrating and adopting research tested interventions into practice contributes to the overall success of a program it requires careful program planning, implementation and

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#### Alaska Health Educators Consortium:

Tuesday morning breakfast meeting

#### Senior Behavioral Health Outreach:

Tuesday 5 – 7 PM

#### Institute for Circumpolar Health Science & Policy Planning Committee:

Thursday 9:30 – 11:30 AM

#### Alaska Community Action on Toxics:

Tuesday lunch

#### Take Heart Alaska Board:

To be announced

#### Alaska Health Assurance Advocacy Team:

To be announced

## Post-Summit Meetings & Events

*(Continued from page 6)*

evaluation. The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) Cancer Information Service will offer a one-day Post-Summit training on how to plan health promotion and disease prevention programs. Participants will be introduced to Using What Works: Adopting Evidence-Based Programs to Fit Your Needs (UWW), a five module tool that helps program planners select evidence-based programs (EBPs) with potential for success in their community.

Through case studies and interactive activities, participants will learn: what is meant by "evidence-based" and the benefits of using EBPs; ways to conduct a needs assessment and its role in adaptation of EBPs; to find an EBP that best fits the needs of their community; to adapt an EBP to fit their community's needs; to develop and conduct an evaluation plan for their program. Participants will also learn how to navigate Cancer Control P.L.A.N.E.T., a web portal of research-tested re

sources for cancer control. This session teaches users how to plan a health program using evidence-based programs, also known as research-tested interventions. Evidence-based programs have already been conducted, evaluated, and shown to be effective in a given community.

TO REGISTER, contact Jennifer Tudor / 206-667-4675 / jtudor@fhcrc.org

### Support-for-Service Programs: New Options for Alaska, December 4, 9 AM – Noon

Having a sustainable and competent practitioner workforce is vital to the health of Alaskans. However, Alaska is at a serious disadvantage as it competes in the national healthcare labor market. In other states, "support-for-service programs" (e.g. loan repayment, and direct incentive) have shown substantial and longstanding success as a public strategy to address workforce shortages. A key problem is that Alaska does not have a robust SFSP while most other states do, many have several, and further, some of those are growing.

This Post-Summit event presents the plan-in-draft of the Interagency Planning Group (IPG) for an Alaskan "Health Care Professions Loan

Repayment & Incentive Program" (HCPLRIP). The following practitioner groups are included: Dentists, Dental Hygienists, Nurses (RN), Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Physical Therapists, Physicians (MD & DO), Physician Assistants, Psychologists, and Social Workers (MSW). The session presents an estimate of future need, expected cost, and ways to focus placements on care for the underserved.

The IPG is composed of members from the following Alaska healthcare entities:

- Alaska Dental Society
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium\
- Alaska Pharmacists Association
- Alaska Primary Care Association

- Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association
- Alaska State Medical Association
- Alaska Commission on Post-Secondary Education
- Geriatric Education Center (CHD-UAA)
- Health Planning & Systems Development (DPH-DHSS)
- Alaska Native Health Board
- Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

The intended discussants are policy makers, program managers, clinic supervisors, planners and opinion leaders. The format involves presentation, policy discussion and consensus-building.

TO REGISTER: Contact Robert Sewell at robert.sewell@alaska.gov.

## Post-Summit Meetings & Events (Continued)

### Maternal Child Health Disaster Preparedness Conference, December 4, 5, 2008

This intensive interactive course examines the key problems facing the most vulnerable victims of disasters – women and children. Their unique needs must be recognized and prioritized early.

Brief lectures combined with structured small group discussions promote continued learning long after the course is over. Participants will emerge from this training empowered to advocate for the needs of women and children locally, leading to a more comprehensive approach to including the MCH population in disaster planning at all levels.

Topics will include:

- Medical and psychosocial triage issues
- Child development stages – reactions and interventions
- Key role of schools and child care centers
- Childbirth outside hospital setting, basic newborn resuscitation
- Breastfeeding and infant feeding considerations
- Shelter issues for women and children – safety, reunification, contraception and sexually transmitted diseases

\$150 registration fee (includes lunch and breaks)

*Sponsorships are still being accepted! Contact Jayne Andreen at [jayne.andreen@alaska.gov](mailto:jayne.andreen@alaska.gov) to discuss how you can support this valuable event!*

### 2008 ALPHA SUMMIT SPONSORS

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- Alaska Division of Behavioral Health

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- Alaska Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

#### Marathan Level \$1,000 - \$2,499

- North Star Behavioral Health
- AARP

**To register for the Health Summit, visit [www.alaskapublichealth.org](http://www.alaskapublichealth.org)**