

APHIP Update



Sitka Launches Community Health Partnership

The Sitka Turning Point Towards Health Partnership came together last year as a grassroots effort to work together on improving community health. The Partnership successfully applied for a *Turning Point* grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and has made several strides over the last few months.

- ◆ **Vision & Mission** To help describe the *Turning Point* effort, a team is weaving together a story that reflects the fabric of Sitka's community and re-working the vision and mission statements. The system assessment work group recently defined *health and well-being* and intends to survey local providers regarding their mission, scope of services and who they serve.
- ◆ **Health Data Collection** C & S Management Associates, the facilitators for Sitka's Turning Point effort, will lead the health data collection effort under the direction of the Steering Committee. The *Health of Sitka*, a comprehensive examination of Sitka's assets and health issues, will be published in early 1999.

- ◆ **Public Participation** An *engaging-the-public* workgroup is forming. One activity involves contacting individuals and groups in Sitka engaged in *health promoting* activities, ranging from planting trees, to leading kids on outdoor adventures, to hosting contra dances. Another idea will build on surveying done at the May 1998 Health Fair and capture citizens' ideas about community health and well-being.

The Partnership engages a variety of people. Members include interested residents, local church leaders, and the City Administrator, and representatives from the Sitka Medical Center, Sitka Community Hospital, Sitka Prevention & Treatment Services, Public Health Nursing, Community Schools, Alaska Native Sisterhood, Sheldon Jackson College, Islands Institute, SEARHC, and many more.

The Partnership's next meeting is August 6, 1998. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in more information about Sitka's Turning Point efforts, contact Lisa Sadleir-Hart at 907/966-8736.

Beautiful Sitka-by-the-Sea is accessible only by boat or plane.



Sitka's Turning Point Towards Health Partnership meets monthly. They meet again on August 6th.



APHIP Update

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Issue

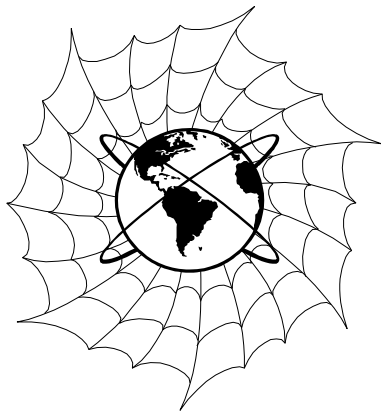
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Visit the *APHIP*
web page at:
www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/aphip/home.htm

Visit the *Turning Point* web page at:
www.NACCHO.org/projects/tp

Visit *The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation* web site at:
www.rwjf.org

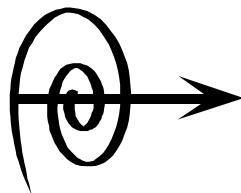


Web Site Posted

If you have access to the Internet, visit the Alaska Public Health Improvement Process home page at:

<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/aphip/home.htm>

This site provides information on the APHIP, as well as a way for visitors to provide comments, ask questions and volunteer. Draft reports will be posted on the web site as they are developed and released for public comment.



Maniilaq Receives State Grant to Support Local Public Health Improvement Efforts

The Division of Public Health intends to award a grant to Maniilaq Association to support local public health improvement planning in the Northwest Arctic Borough. The grant is being provided to Maniilaq at the request of the APHIP Steering Committee, who decided to expand participation in public health planning to bush Alaska.

Watch future editions of *APHIP Update* and the APHIP web site for more information on Maniilaq's public health improvement project.

Turning Point Community Issue

This edition of *APHIP Update* profiles community efforts to strengthen the public health system at the local level in Alaska. The communities of Sitka, Fairbanks, and Central Kenai Peninsula were awarded *Turning Point* grants by the W.K. Kellogg Foundations. Local steering committees in these communities are working in partnership with the statewide Alaska Public Health Improvement Process. Watch the APHIP web site for updates on all the community *Turning Point* projects.

1998 APHIP Calendar

July-September

- *System Assessment Surveys Continue*

July

- 9th – Sitka Partnership Meeting
- 20th – Fairbanks Partnership Meeting
- 27th thru 31st – Lawrence Gostin Public Health Law Consultant Site Visit

August

- 6th – Sitka Partnership Meeting
- 17th – Fairbanks Partnership Meeting

September

- 3rd – Kenai Partnership Meeting
- 21st – Fairbanks Partnership Meeting

October

- 1st – Kenai Partnership Meeting
- *PH System Assessment Report Published*

November

- APHIP Steering Committee Retreat
- *PH System Redesign Phase Begins*

December 2-4

- 1998 Alaska Health Summit

Call (907) 465-8622 for more information.

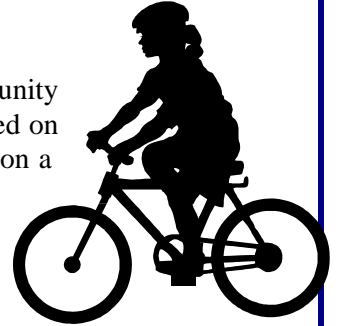
Fairbanks Creates Partnership for a Healthy Community



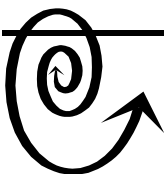
A group of committed Fairbanks citizens recently began developing a partnership to improve the health of their community. Thanks to a *Turning Point* grant award from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the formation of a steering committee, the Fairbanks Partnership for a Healthy Community became a reality last January.

The Partnership has done a lot. Accomplishments to date include:

- **Establishing an Alliance with United Way.** This alliance will be used to conduct a community assessment. The assessment will include collection of local health indicator information based on *Healthy People 2000* objectives. The community assessment data eventually will be posted on a web site, which will be maintained by United Way of Tanana Valley.
- **Organizing a Health Resources Committee.** This committee will gather information on the community resources available to address health problems. This effort includes a study on the roles and responsibilities of organizations that deliver public and environmental health services in Fairbanks.
- **Developing a Community Relations Campaign.** The Partnership is working to increase community involvement and input in public health. Plans include a series of visible activities with specific, understandable objectives. With assistance from the local Safe Kids Coalition, the first activity, a bicycle helmet survey was conducted in June.



The Fairbanks Partnership's Steering Committee meets on the third Monday of every month. Members include representation from the medical and mental health communities, United Way, the Salvation Army, state Divisions of Public Health and Environmental Health, the military, and the Fairbanks Native Association. Interested individuals are invited to attend. Contact Jean Becker at the Fairbanks Public Health Center at 907/451-1673 for more information.



Kenai Uses Innovation to Enhance Community Health

The Kenai Healthy Communities/Healthy People (HC/HP) Partnership, a group of energetic and visionary individuals, has been working together to improve health. Born out of Borough-sponsored efforts to address health care access in the early 1990s, the HC/HP was established in 1994 to support a broader mission of measuring and improving health and well-being in the community.

The local HC/HP coalition has been busy working on a variety of issues over the past few months. The Steering Committee held an all-day work session in May. Grant objectives were discussed and agreed upon.

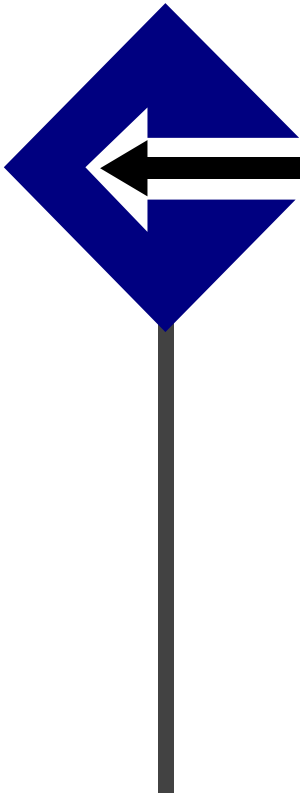
One high-priority objective identified in May is the community health indicators project. A task force was created to identify data needs, review existing data, collect missing data elements, and choose a mechanism for sharing the information with the community.

Another important objective is the organization of a task force to enhance and expand citizen leadership. This task force will network with a broad range of community groups to coordinate community leadership training.

A number of other objectives identified in May involved formalization and expansion of the network. Many of these objectives, such as development of by-laws and establishment of a memorandum of agreement with Bridges, Inc., have been completed to date.

One success that the HC/HP has achieved is the publication of *Kids Otter Be Immunized*, a statewide immunization campaign song. Watch the Kenai HC/HP's web page, accessible through the APHIP web site, for details.

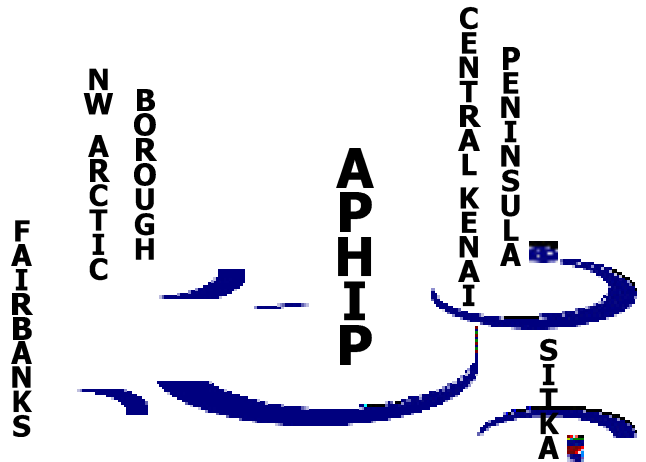
For more information on the Kenai HC/HP, contact JoAnn Hagen at 907/283-4871.



Inside this Issue

A Closer Look at the Turning Point Communities

- ◆ Sitka Launches Community Health Partnership
- ◆ Maniilaq Receives a State Grant
- ◆ Fairbanks Creates Partnership for a Healthy Community
- ◆ Kenai Uses Innovation to Enhance Community Health
- ◆ More Web Sites to Check Out



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