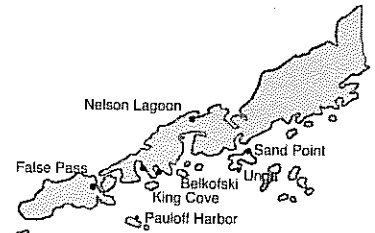


St. Paul

St. George

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.

1131 E. International Airport Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1408
Phone (907) 276-2700
Fax (907) 279-4351



December 20, 2013

Rick Gifford, Administrator
Aleutians East Borough
3380 C St., Suite 205
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Mr. Gifford:

I am pleased to inform you that during the recent Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) Board of Directors meeting held the week of December 9th, we received verbal support from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, President/CEO—Mr. Roald Helgeson to collaborate with the “A-Team” in hosting a **Substance Abuse Summit**. Per your suggestion, the mentioned Substance Abuse Summit’s purpose would be to solicit participation from stakeholders including from the State, law enforcement, school districts, representatives from the village corporations and tribes, behavioral health providers as well as other stakeholders such as from the seafood and transportation industries serving our region.

As you are aware, substance abuse including but not limited to alcohol, narcotics and other drugs is a nationwide epidemic and is an alarming concern to all of us in the Alaska Native community. We have observed this epidemic impact our Unangan Peoples, affecting entire communities, and specifically endangering the lives of our youth, our work force, and our families. We recognize that our Native peoples are particularly vulnerable as we have many of the contributing risk factors which can lead to substance abuse, including but not limited to being a victim of trauma, historical trauma, untreated mental health issues, and limited economies. These factors and others, influence a sense of powerlessness among community stakeholders to actively address the issue. As described below, we are aiming to combat the sense of powerlessness, empower our communities to heal and overcome addictions, and to tackle this issue as a united Unangan movement.

We expect that this Summit will include presentations to educate participants on various substances and their physical, mental and spiritual effects on an individual, family and community; provide a forum for discussion on what resources are currently available and will be

needed to address the epidemic within the region; and facilitate discussions to strategize immediate and long term actionable steps necessary to reverse this epidemic. A key goal will be to develop effective, culturally responsive prevention, intervention and post-vention resources for individuals, families and our communities.

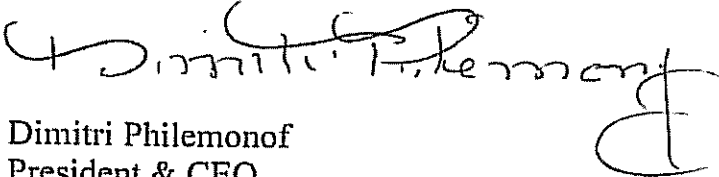
We anticipate scheduling the proposed **Substance Abuse Summit in September 2014** and look forward to a partnership with the Aleutians East Borough and the rest of the "A-Team" membership in collaboration to make this happen. We appreciate your commitment and any contribution you may be able to make towards the conference and follow-up necessary to ensure its success.

In the pre-planning phase of the proposed summit, APIA is happy to take the lead in donating staff time to schedule planning meetings, coordinating speakers and managing logistics to ensure a successful summit.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this partnership. If you have any questions or need for clarification please contact me directly. We look forward to partnering with the "A-Team" on designing workable solutions to the substance abuse crisis facing our people and doing so in a manner in which it can be used as a model for other Tribal Health regions within our great State. Thank you again for your leadership through the Aleutians East Borough to help move this forward.

Regards,

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION


Dimitri Philemonof
President & CEO

Cc: Mr. Mark Snigaroff, Chairman, APIA Board of Directors
Mr. Michael Zacharof, Chairman, APIA Board Health Committee & ANTHC Board of Director
Carolyn Crowder, APIA Health Director
Dr. Tina Woods, APIA Community Health Services Regional Administrator