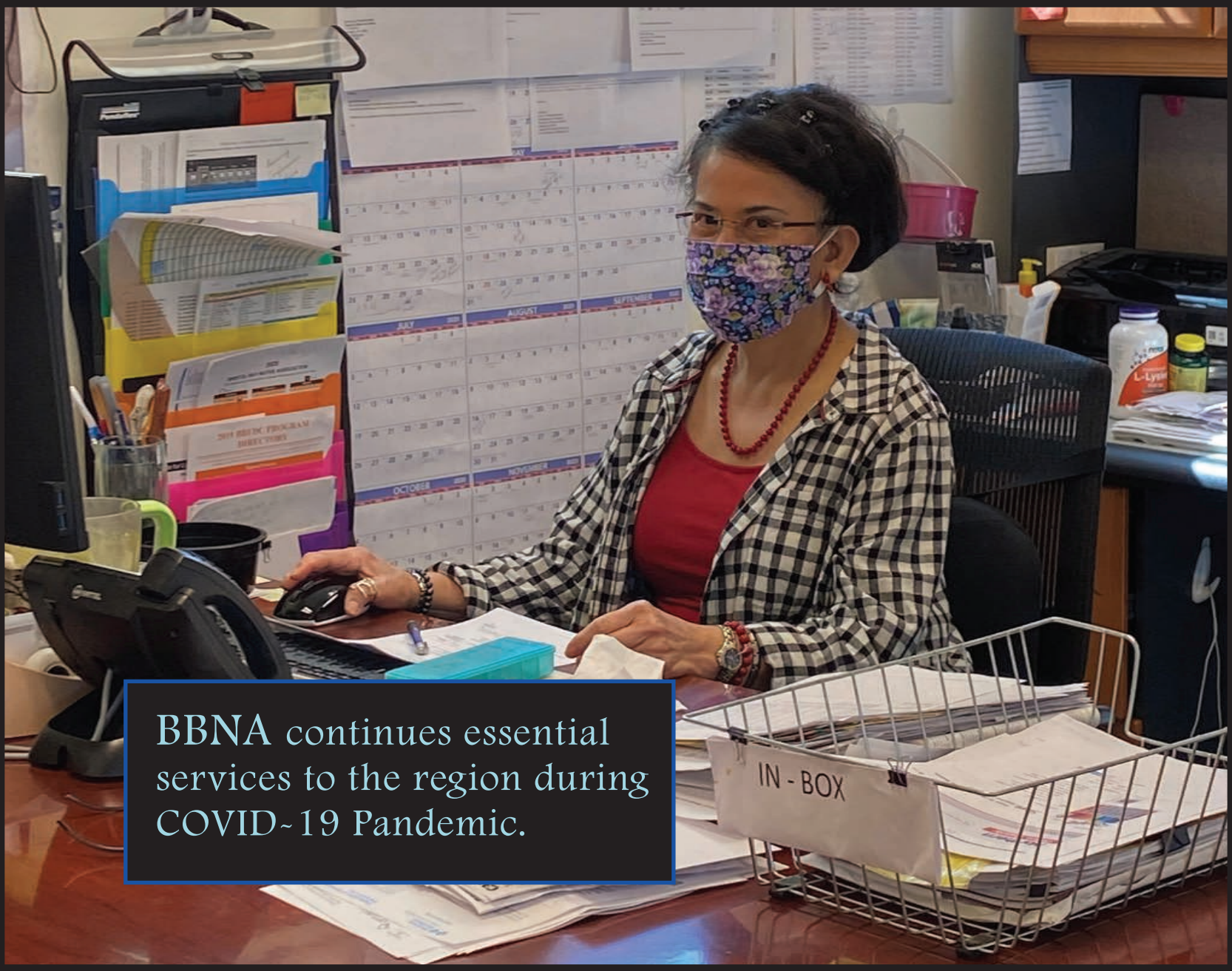
BBNA News

Bristol Bay Native Association www.bbna.com



BBNA continues essential services to the region during COVID-19 Pandemic.

Issue: June 2020

BBNA Finance Department working limited hours during COVID-19

Left: Venita Flensburg, Dana Clark, Margaret Williams, Candy Miller, Lenora Atienza, and Ted Angasan III.

BBNA staff work limited hours to continue the operation of BBNA and ensure the continuity of services to the people of the Bristol Bay Region.

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BBNA Workforce Development Telecommuting

By Serena Aikins-McArthur, Workforce Development Director

BBNA's Workforce Development is currently telecommuting from home ensuring that all services continue. Staff have continued processing remotely, taking applications over the phone or through mail, and fax. If you are in need of any of Workforce Development Services please call us at 842-2262.

Our applications can be found online at https://bbna.com/our-programs/workforce-development/.

Applications can be submitted by emailing staff, faxing to 842-3498 or sending via mail to:
BBNA Workforce Development
PO Box 310
Dillingham, AK 99576

Workforce Development Staff look forward to continuing to serve the needs of the region even during these times of uncertainty. Thank you!

COVID-19 Funding Received

BBNA would like to thank all funders for the funding received to continue operations and services during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Title	Grant Purpose	Award
CARES ACT COVID	Direct Funds to Tribes to assist with COVID19 pandemic	$ 3,840,955.20
CARES ACT COVID - Reserves	Reserved Funds to Tribes to assist with COVID19 pandemic	$ 960,238.00
CDC - COVID	Funding to assist Organization is COVID19 related expenses	$ 452,381.00
AK Can Do COVID19	Funding for Utilities, Rental/Mortgage and Childcare affected by COVID19	$ 12,000.00

Regional Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Patty Heyano, Program Development Department Director

Aleesha Towns-Bain, BBNC Education Foundation Executive Director, is leading a weekly call, Coordinating Bristol Bay Response to the COVID-19, at the programmatic level with Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation (BBAHC), Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), Alaska Public Health Service, and Camai Clinic. The project partners collaborated on a needs assessment survey of the tribes to learn their urgent needs and find ways to respond. The State of Alaska leaves many matters up to the local governments where needs are high and resources are scarce. Since the regional organizations are often called upon to act on issues that affect the whole region, they are coordinating their efforts. Some of the actions from this group:

- BBNC Shareholders Development VP, Carol Wren and BBNA Community Service Department Director, Bonnie Kropoff, collaborated on the Needs Assessment survey. BBNC is responding to those needs by shipping planeloads of food and COVID-19 supplies to communities. BBNA Program Development Director, Patty Heyano, is responding to the needs by writing grants.
- BBNC donated $50,000, and American Seafoods donated $6,500 to the BBNA Regional Food Bank and the Family Service Department, Regional Food Bank purchased more food for Food Bank clients.
- Carol Wren, BBNC Shareholder Development VP, coordinated the Bristol Bay Mask Makers by helping the mask making effort and distributing them where needed. BBNC provided four sewing machines, materials, outreach, and coordination.

CDC Supporting Tribal Public Health Capacity in Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Grant

In partnership with BBAHC Grant Writing, Kaitlin Applegate, BBNA Program Development Director, Patty Heyano, submitted an application to the CDC Supporting Tribal Public Health Capacity in Coronavirus Preparedness and Response grant, which was awarded $452,381, the first of two awards. The second award will be on a per capita basis after all applications are received by CDC and the remaining funds will be distributed amongst the applicants in August. This project will provide emergency funding to purchase more COVID-19 related supplies and send them to the villages. The target population of the CDC grant application covers the pooled service areas of BBNA and BBAHC. This includes the 31 tribes in BBNA's service area plus Goodnews Bay and Platinum. With support from this CDC grant, BBNA is helping ensure that tribal jurisdictions have resources for COVID-19 preparedness and response. The full extent of the operational impacts and costs associated with the crisis are unknowable at this point, so some flexibility is built into this project to support the tribes during the shifting focus of the crisis.

HRSA Rural Tribal COVID-19 Response Program Grant

Since the CDC funding doesn't cover all needs during the social distancing and stay at home orders, and the commercial fishing industry and sports hunting & fishing travelers are expected to bring the virus to the region requiring further precautions, another funding application was submitted to the HRSA Rural Tribal COVIC-19 Response Program ($300,000) on May 6, 2020. The HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration) grant, if awarded, will purchase prepaid cell phones, laptops, non-contact thermometers, and COVID-19 related supplies to continue essential services safely by staff in the villages and at the main office. These supplies help to provide essential services while maintaining social distancing and health screening before entering the BBNA and tribal work places.

COVID-19 didn't stop BBNA staff from continuing the yearly spring clean up of Dillingham.

Char Carr

Kristina Andrew

Rose Bennett & John Bennett

Annie Fritze & grandson

Candy Miller & daughter

THANK YOU STAFF !!!

Community Services Department

By Bonnie Kropoff, Community Services Department Director

It has been a challenging time with the COVID-19 pandemic as we prioritized our work to protect the health and safety of our employees and communities while striving to continue regular operations and service delivery. Starting in early March my priority was to protect employees and do our part to slow the spread of the virus. We worked quickly to ensure employee safety by immediately identifying vulnerable employees, including employees with vulnerable household members, and directing employees to telecommute/work from home. Setting up effective telecommuting work stations involved working closely with our Information Technology (IT) staff to recommend and order needed telecommuting supplies and identifying telecommuting resource options for our central office and off site employees. Our work quickly became consumed with COVID-19 mitigation planning and preparation, keeping up with and sharing rapidly available and changing news and resources, and supporting tribes in accessing federal relief funding. Community Services is thankful for the support received from Bristol Bay Native Corporation who initiated forming the Bristol Bay Response Team (see the Regional Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic article on page three for more information). Community Services central office staff worked with Tribal Administrators to identify priority community and emergency responder supply needs to be prepared to assist in obtaining supplies as resources became available. The supply needs information was used by Community Services to make requests to obtain cloth face coverings from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Emergency Operations Center (DHSS EOC) through Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Incident Command. We were happy to receive news in early May that 17,000 masks are their way to Bristol Bay communities from FEMA and PPE including 4,500 masks, 100 face shields, 75 boxes of exam gloves, and 2 jugs of hand sanitizer are on the way from the DHSS EOC.

BIA CARES Act Supplemental Aid to Tribal Government funding

Supplemental ATG pass-through funds were made available to tribes in late April. Community Services Department Accounting & Office Management Specialists work to provide information and technical assistance to Administrators to ensure Tribes are able to access funds as quickly as possible.

CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funding

Community Services and BBNC staff worked tirelessly to assist the Bureau of Indian Affairs Alaska office staff in encouraging Bristol Bay Tribes to submit their information through the U.S. Department of the Treasury web portal by the deadline. The firm and very short deadline had to be met in order for Tribes to be eligible to receive CARES Act funding made available to Tribes from Treasury. We are pleased to receive confirmation that all 31 tribes in the BBNA service area made their submission by the deadline. CSD continues to share information and guidance on the use of funds as information becomes available.

Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Grant

Community Services and Program Development submitted a grant application to make much needed infrastructure improvements to the public safety buildings that house offices for VPSO positions in 9 communities last November. In early May we received notice that our application resulted in an award of over $2.8 million dollars out of approximately $6 million available state-wide to make the improvements to the buildings in the communities of Aleknagik, Koliganek, Manokotak, Pilot Point, and Togiak. Community Services has partnered with the Transportation Department to manage the project.

Marine Mammal Program delays

By Helen Aderman, Marine Mammal Program Manager

Due to statewide pandemic COVID-19 mandates, the FY'20 Bristol Bay Harvest Data Collection Project Iliamna Region for communities of: Pedro Bay, Kokhanok, Igiugig, Iliamna-Newhalen (combined survey), and Levelock will be delayed until Tribal communities, Bristol Bay Native Association, and the State of Alaska determines surveys can be conducted safely for staff, community residents, and Local Research Assistants. Thank you for your patience. The safety of Bristol Bay Tribal members has always been the priority of BBNA's Marine Mammal Program.

Head Start services delivered distantly

By Hannah Henderickson & Amanda Henderson, Head Start Teachers

With the cancellation of schools statewide due to COVID-19, the Head Start teachers in Dillingham stepped up to the plate. They used innovative ways to reach their students across many different media platforms. Parents and guardians were added to a private Facebook page after being assessed on their preferences. Weekly family engagement activities and daily "read alouds" were posted to this page for students and families to watch. Teachers created and personally distributed boxes filled with educational activities. Each one tailored to students' individuals goals.

VPSO Program

By Deon Lopez, VPSO Program Manager

The Village Public Safety Officer program provides a "First Response" officer for public safety emergencies such as search and rescue, fire protection, emergency medical assistance, crime prevention, and basic law enforcement. The Program provides four Officers, stationed in the communities of Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Pilot Point, and Togiak, and Program Manager, Deon Lopez, located at the BBNA Central Office.

VPSO Spencer Walcott of New Stuyahok New Hire - March 2, 2020.

BBNA is pleased to announce that VPSO Spencer Walcott was hired March 2, 2020 for the Village of New Stuyahok. VPSO Walcott will attend the Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka on July 28, 2020.

VPSO Cpl. Roger Wassillie of Togiak geared up for COVID-19 Protection.

The April Coordinators meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. HB287 & SB231 both have also been put on hold due to COVID-19. The Purpose of the Bills is to remove the barriers that underlie program challenges of recruitment and retention of VPSOs.

For information on open VPSO positions, how to apply, job qualifications and requirements go to the BBNA website: https://www.bbna.com/bbna-employment/ and download the job description, eligibility form and employment application.

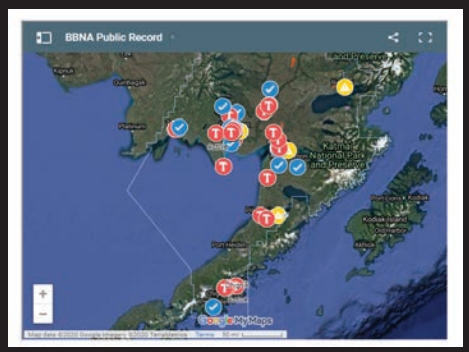
Employment information is also available by calling (907)842-5257 / toll-free 1-800-478-5257 or emailing: Deon Lopez, VPSO Program Manager at deon.lopez@bbna.com or Olga Kropoff, Personnel Manager, at okropoff@bbna.com.

Additional information about the VPSO Program is available on the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety VPSO website: http://dps.alaska.gov/ast/vpso/

Brownfield Program - Public Record updated

By CaSandera Johnson, Environmental Program Manager

BBNA's Brownfield Program has completed the annual update of the public record for the 20 tribes enrolled into the program! What is exciting is that the program has developed a web map for the public to visually see the GPS coordinates of contamination in their area. As of the end of April, that web map is now live and can be found on BBNA's website under the Programs tab on the Brownfield Program web page or enter this link into a web browser: https://bbna.com/our-programs/natural-resources/brownfields-program/. The contamination information in the public record has data from State of Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservations (DEC) contaminated sites database, Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), and Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP) database.



In other news, the State of Alaska's Class 2 Facilities program is being eliminated due to funding cuts in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. The program was created in 2017 to fulfill the new Class 2 Facility regulation (18 AAC 75.835 – 18 AAC 75.849) which required the DEC to create a statewide inventory of a newly designated classification of aboveground storage tank facilities. Effective immediately, the Department plans to repeal the regulations relating to Class 2 facility registration and will no longer accept Class 2 facility registrations or notifications required under 18 AAC 75.840. To read the guidance document on the elimination of the Class 2 Facilities program enter this link into a web browser: https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/prevention-preparedness/class-2-facilities/.

Lastly, the Brownfield Program still has the Contaminated Sites Coordinator's position open. For more information about this job opportunity, please visit BBNA's website for a job description and application or contact BBNA's Human Recourse department by emailing Olga Kropoff, Personnel Manager at okropoff@bbna.com or Rose Fisher, Human Resources Director at rfisher@bbna.com.

As always, if you have any questions about contamination in your community or if your tribe would like to enroll into the Brownfield Program please contact CaSandera Johnson, Environmental Program Manager, by email: cjohnson@bbna.com or by home-work phone 907-842-2617.

20 Years at BBNA - Helen Aderman, Marine Mammal Program Manager

Helen Aderman and her King Salmon.

Helen speaking before the BBNA Board on NOAA issues.

Helen and her husband at her Aleknagik Lake fish rack.

May 2019-Helen Aderman was nominated 2019 ARCUS Indigenous Scholar. Photo with Senator Dan Sullivan, and husband Andy Aderman in Washington, DC.

Helen Kegginarrluk Aderman is Yup'ik Eskimo, born in Togiak, Alaska. Her late parents Tom and Naomi Chythlook raised the family in Aleknagik, Alaska and family grew up with a traditional Yup'ik Eskimo upbringing which included year-round traditional subsistence activities and seasonal commercial salmon gillnet and set gillnet fishing. For the past 20 years, Helen has worked for BBNA and will retire July 31, 2020 as the Marine Mammal Program Manager. Helen is the Executive Director of the Qayassiq Walrus Commission and Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council. She holds a B.A. in Rural Development with an emphasis in Land Use Planning from University of Alaska Fairbanks.

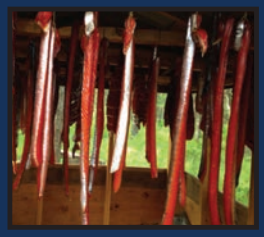
Helen's work included: addressing impacts on marine mammal habitat use areas to ensure future Alaska Native generations can have continued access to their traditional marine food resource use areas. Helen worked with tribal councils, federal, state agencies, other Alaska Marine Mammal organizations to create integrated tribal research utilizing local traditional ecological knowledge and the best of western science for tribal research projects relating to marine mammals. This has enabled tribes to become independent stewards of their marine ecosystem resources. As Marine Mammal Program Manager, responsibility to the Bristol Bay tribes has included coordinating local co-management of marine mammals and local marine mammal research efforts, such as population assessments, harvest monitoring and bio-sampling projects. The annual research priorities of the Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council and the Qayassiq Walrus Commission is the basis BBNA and project cooperator's in conducting tribal research projects from grant funding. For the past 20 years, the Marine Mammal program had interns learn "hands on" with seasonal agency field staff about marine mammal monitoring (pacific walrus, Stellar seal lions, and harbor seals), seabird monitoring for pelagic cormorant or kittiwakes consisted of seabird productiviity counts. Intern field sites were mainly at Qayassiq (Round Island), Cape Seniavin, and Cape Pierce. In 2005, Levelock student interns from Togiak, Newhalen, and Levelock learned on-site about beluga tagging. The Qayassiq Walrus Commission is one of the only state-wide Pacific walrus U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-Qayassiq Walrus Commission that receives direct Section 119 Co-Management funding to co-manage the Pacific walrus in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Helen is fluent in the Yupik Eskimo language and has incorporated the local traditional knowledge from the Yupik Eskimo way of life and cultural traditional values in managing the Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Program. Her vision in managing the BBNA Marine Mammal Program used the traditional approach 'Yaatekaa Umyuaqlugu' –this means planning and thinking ahead into the future and beyond. A draft Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Multi-Species Conservation Plan is in place developed from tribal marine multi-species conservation plans from Chignik Lagoon, Port Heiden, and Togiak. This project will be expanded to other Bristol Bay Tribes so eventually the tribes can have their own tribal marine multi-species conservation plans to monitor, manage, and conduct tribal research based on their unique issues and concerns. Marine Mammal species of focus field training has been conducted with tribal local experts on local Native traditional ecological knowledge and western science methodology on Iliamna freshwater harbor seals, Northern Alaska Peninsula harbor seals, Steller sea lions, sea otters, and bearded seals. This includes development of field GPS technology mapping during population surveys as well as documenting marine mammal habitat use areas, and subsistence resource use areas. Project examples - Beluga satellite tagging, walrus monitor the Qayassiq Walrus Commission hunt, some Round Island field walrus monitoring; Spring and Fall monitoring of Steller sea lion population counts; some Marine Mammal stranding bio-sampling; marine mammal species of focus population and traditional knowledge tribal research.

Helen has had Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigator experience in various marine mammal research projects:

- BBNA's NOAA Marine Mammal Research, Monitoring, and Managing Marine Mammals in Bristol Bay 2001 to present;
- "Bristol Bay Marine Multi-Species Conservation Tribal Planning Research Project August 2016 -December 31, 2018.
- Bristol Bay Imarpiim Ungungsiit Marine Conservation Project 2013-2017;
- Port Heiden Harbor Seal Research Project 2008-2010;
- NPRB Iliamna Freshwater Harbor Seal Research and TEK Project (2011-2013).
- Native Village of Perryville Steller Sea Lion Population Identification & TEK Project;
- Harbor Seal Pilot Project for Port Heiden, Co-principal Investigator,
- NPRB Iliamna Freshwater Harbor Seal Research and TEK Project. PWCF –Pacific Walrus TEK project in Bristol Bay Project;
- Field work as tagger and data technician tasks for the Bristol Bay Beluga Research Project 2002-2005 in Levelock and Nushagak Bay, Alaska;
- Round Island Hunt Monitor 2003-2006.

Helen had a great impact on the Marine Mammal Program and she will be missed at BBNA. We wish her well and hope she enjoys reitrement.



"Our traditional way of life is important for Alaska Native spiritual health, & well-being."

Quote from Helen.

BBNA Family Services Department: Family Wellness Division

By Jeweline Larson, Family Wellness Division Manager

The Family Wellness Division has four programs; Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA), Wellness, Tribal Response, and the Regional Food Bank.

The FVPSA program is funded annually through a formula grant in which the award amount is dependent upon supporting Tribal Resolutions for the program. Thank you to the 18 Village Councils who have submitted their supporting Tribal Resolution which were included in the grant application for FY 21. Through the FVPSA Program BBNA maintains a sub-award agreement with the Safe And Fear-Free Environment Inc. (SAFE), as to not duplicate the supportive services provided. SAFE provided immediate safety services for victims of violence.

Wellness Advisory Committee:Dee Dee Bennis-Chair, Sharon Clark, William Pavella, Ruby Murphy, Fred Tom Hurley. Not pictured Helen Gregorio, Nancy Dull, Marilyn Casteel, and Jim Newman.

As we say goodbye to BBNA's previous Wellness Coordinator – Mary Jane Kasayulie whom worked with our Tribal Response Team Coordinator - Barbara Nunn utilizing the Village Wellness Team Workbook as a guide to activate Wellness Teams in Aleknagik, Dillingham, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, and Togiak. Wellness Teams with oversight by Program Staff worked on development of their Wellness: A Circle of Life curriculum by adapting the Healthy Families – Yup'ik Way curriculum to fit their community's specific needs. The Wellness: A Circle of Life program curriculum includes 12 adaptable stages: Introduction; Conception/Pregnancy; Teachings about love; Teachings on helping; Teachings of hunting and gathering and sharing; Boys and Girls Roles; Historical Trauma; Healing; Teachings of marriage preparation and relationships; Marriage and family; Leaving home; Becoming an elder; and Celebration. Aleknagik, Dillingham, Ekwok, and Togiak have completed their curriculum.

BBNA developed a voluntary Bristol Bay Yarruii Wellness Committee in 2012 to oversee the continuity of BBNA's Board directive, in previous effort to address the domestic violence, sexual assault alcohol and substance abuse issues. In 2016, the Yarruii Wellness Committee agreed to serve as the Wellness Advisory Committee for our Bristol Bay region.

Bottom: William Pavella, Sophie Gust, Massa Gumlickpuk, Esther Thompson, Darryl Thompson. Middle: Mary Jane Kasayulie, Lucy Andrews, Faith Andrew, Gayla Hoseth, Tiffany Webb, Dee Dee Bennis, Ruby Murphy, Sharon Clark, Margie Hastings, Julia Williams, Sophie Kaleak, Jeweline Larson. Back: Barbara Nunn, Fred Tom Hurley, William Paterson, Tom Tilden, Amber Webb, Wassillie Andrews, Evelyn Larson, Alberta Hoseth. Not pictured: Marilyn Casteel,

In March 2020 Wellness Team members and Village Council representatives from participating villages attended the first Wellness: A Circle of Life facilitators training. Program Staff will continue development and implementation of the Bristol Bay Wellness Initiative Strategic Plan by utilizing the Wellness: A Circle of Life program to help people within the Bristol Bay region to heal issues of abuse, neglect, domestic violence, sexual assault, and historical trauma.

BBNA Family Services and other local community partners collaborated in hosting an Undoing Racism Workshop presented by The People's Institute for Survival and Beyond with 20 participants. Undoing Racism is a special training to help get to the very root of violence and other social issues that affect our children and families.

Undoing Racism Workshop March 2020. Top row: Abaigeal O'Brien, Suzanne Nunn, Charlene Evalt, Kimberly Seybert, Barbara Nunn, Kavalila Kapotak, Kassie Westervelt, Mary Jane Kasayulie, Triston Hansen. Middle row: Victoria Redstarr, Tiffany Webb, Bernadine Dull, Jane Gottschalk, Eva Kapotak, Carla Akelkok, Diana Dunn. Bottom row: Micaela Ledesma, Katirina Mowrer, Crystal Nixion-Luckhurst, Danae Suttles, Fank Woods III.

As the BBNA Regional Food Bank continues to provide nutritious food for every eligible household that applied from the eligible villages in the Bristol Bay Region. We strive to provide a variety of nutritional foods to our clients by including all the main food groups needed for a nutritious diet. We would like to thank Bristol Bay Native Corporation, American Seafoods, and SeaShare for their donations. You can now access a Food Bank application on BBNA's website.

Bristol Bay Native Association
P.O. Box 310
1500 Kanakanak Road
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

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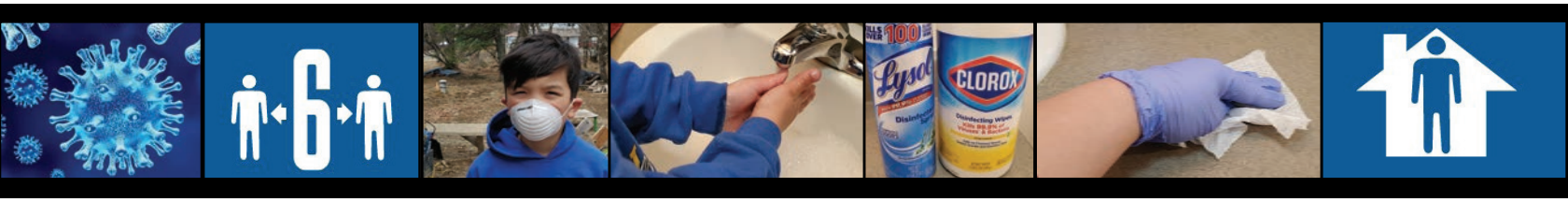

Resources for Small Businesses Navigating COVID-19 Quarantine

In this time of quarantine there is a lot of uncertainty for small businesses.
This is intended to help you locate resources to get through these times.

Please check these site regularly as they change frequently.

For more information contact Kristina Andrew,
Economic Development Program Mananger
Phone: 907-843-0413 Email: kRandrew@bbna.com

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

USDA Actions to Respond to COVID-19

Check out this website for resources related to Covid-19.
https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus

BENEFITS.GOV
Your Path to Government Benefits

On Benefits.gov, you can find government benefits related to unemployment assistance, healthcare, and food and nutrition. You can also take our Benefit Finder to find additional benefits you may be eligible for.

https://www.benefits.gov/help/faq/Coronavirus-resources

Alaska Small Business Development Center
SBDC UAA Business Enterprise Institute

COVID-19 Resource Center

- Small Business Resources: Tips From Your SBDC, Alaska SBDC Newsletters, More Resources
- On-Demand Training: Alaska SBDC Webinars, More COVID-19 Videos
- SBA Resources
- Funding Resources

\https://aksbdc.org/covid19/

Funding Resources

SBA Economic Disaster Loan (EIDL)
https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/

SBA Express Bridge Loan (EBL) Pilot Program
https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/Express-Bridge-Loan-Pilot-Program-Guide-FINAL-3.25.20.pdf

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ePP14eK-89qq4w9pSZEVWLEOWFW96CKw/view?usp=sharing

Sea Grant
For Commercial Fishermen

The Alaska Sea Grant FishBiz team has produced a response document for commercial fishermen http://fishbiz.seagrant.uaf.edu/

This document can also be downloaded for free online: https://seagrant.uaf.edu/bookstore/pubs/MAB-76.html.

The target audience is commercial fishermen, but there are tips in this document that are applicable across business types. Feel free to share!

Follow Elected Officials

Senator Lisa Murkowski
https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/
Senator Dan Sullivan
https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/
Representative Don Young
https://donyoung.house.gov/constituentservices/coronavirus-resource-center.htm
Governor Mike Dunleavy
https://gov.alaska.gov/home/covid-19-economy/

SBA U.S. Small Business Administration

COVID-19 ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN APPLICATION

Make sure to ask for the $10,000 loan advance specific to Covid-19.
Alaska District Office
420 L Street, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK
Phone: 907-271-4022
800-755-7034
https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/